

God's Purpose in the life of believers

Key Scriptures

Romans 8:28 ²⁸ And we know that all things work together for good to those who love God, to those who are the called according to His purpose.

²⁹ For whom He foreknew, He also predestined to be conformed to the image of His Son, that He might be the firstborn among many brethren.

³⁰ Moreover whom He predestined, these He also called; whom He called, these He also justified; and whom He justified, these He also glorified.

Key Point:

You can be joyful no matter what because God has promised:

1. Our bad things will be worked out for good.
2. Our good things can never be taken away from us.
3. The best things are yet to come.

TALK IT OVER

Start talking: Pick a conversation starter for your group.

- What are you most looking forward to this Summer that you can't do at any other time of the year?

Start thinking. Ask questions to get your group thinking.

- What sort of things do we normally think of as either something bad that has happened to us, or perhaps even God's judgment against us, but really, they are meant as good for us?
- Is it possible for things to appear "bad" from our perspective but good from God's? What verse could you cite that supports this view?
- (v.28) In what ways does a belief in the promise of v.28 effect the way we face a) the good and, b) bad circumstances, and even c) the failures and sins of our lives?
- (v.29-30) How does v.29-30 explain what God's ultimate "purpose" in history is, and also what our ultimate "good" is in v.28?
- Why can Paul use the past tense "glorified" when speaking of a Christian? What does this tell us about the certainty of our final salvation?

Start sharing. Choose a question to create openness.

- When do you think these good things work out? Are they something we see in our lives, or must we wait till heaven?
- Tell about a time when something that appeared bad ultimately worked together for good.

Start doing. Commit to a step and live it out this week!

- This week, memorize Romans 8:28-30

Prayer Requests. It may be helpful to pray the scriptures back to God.

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