

Stop, Yield, Go

Romans 8:28



Living Together In The Love Of God

**4038 Graham Sherron Rd
Wake Forest, NC 27587**

Pastor David Buffaloe
Home 919-562-9456 Cell 919-600-4925
online at bibleteacher.org

FOCAL Read Responsively Romans 8:28 And we know that all things work together for good to them that love God, **to them who are the called according to his purpose.**

Opening Illustration I want you to imagine with me for just a moment. You are on vacation at the beach, and God approaches you. The Lord says, **"I want you to do something. I want you to move sand from the beach"**. You ask the Lord, **"How do you want me to do it, Lord?"** He replies, **"Use only this teaspoon. Do not use a wheelbarrow, a shovel, or even your cupped palms or your folded shirt. Take each full spoon across the beach, across the boardwalk, and across the parking lot. There you will find a large dump truck. Climb up on the bumper, and toss the teaspoon of sand into the bed of the truck. At the end of the day I will give you a great blessing"**.

So you begin. At the beginning you are enthusiastic. You get as much as you can on the teaspoon, round it up, and jog across the beach, boardwalk, and parking lot to the dump truck. You notice as you run, though, that some of the sand falls from the spoon. But you work hard, knowing the Lord is going to give you a great reward at the end of the day. As you work, a friend comes up and asks you what you're doing. You tell him. He says, **"That's stupid! Why, you can't empty the beach of sand. Haven't you noticed that each time you get that little bit of sand out, a wave comes and brings with it more sand. Why don't you use a shovel, or move the truck closer? Why go through all this effort?"**

Your friend leaves you, and you keep working - but now you begin to think: **"This is stupid. Why not move the truck closer?"** On your next trip back to the truck you deposit your pitiful teaspoon of sand, then climb up the sideboards of the truck. The cab of the truck is locked, and there are no keys in the ignition. You spend time wondering if you could go get a coat hanger and open the door. Maybe God left the keys on the floorboard under the mat. Maybe this is a test, and God wants to see if you'll keep doing the same stupid thing or not - or else will do the sane thing and move the truck to the beach. The truck is too heavy to push - and God told you **"Use only this teaspoon. Do not use a wheelbarrow, a shovel, or even your cupped palms or your folded shirt"**.

Walking back to the beach, you look at all that sand. **"People are on vacation, relaxing right now. Look at that couple over there. They are having a great time. What about those kids? Every time I get a teaspoon of sand they point at me, smile, and whisper. I must look like an idiot. "**

You get a teaspoon of sand, but now you try to hide it. **"God told me to do this, but He didn't tell me I couldn't hide it"**. You walk nonchalantly toward the truck with your teaspoon of sand hidden under your shirt. When you get to the truck, instead of climbing up on the bumper, you shoot it like a kid shooting peas, hoping it will get in the truck bed. The wind takes most of it away. You walk back to the beach, sit down, and waste time thinking about what you have to do. **"If God loved me He wouldn't have me doing something so**

foolish. Doesn't He know how important my time is? What a waste! I'm hot, tired, and miserable. Sand is stuck all over me. When is this going to end?"

The sun begins to set, and you see the Lord coming toward you. As He comes close to you, and you get ready to complain, the Lord smiles and says **"Come, my Child. Let's see how much sand you collected. We'll weigh that sand together, and I'll give you an equal amount of diamonds for all the sand you've collected."**

Suddenly your attention goes from the beach - which you were never supposed to empty in the first place - to the diamonds. You could have had *so much more* if you had been obedient. You robbed yourself of blessing. You let others rob you of blessing. You should have stayed focused. The Bible says:

Psalms 34:10 The young lions do lack, and suffer hunger: but they that seek the LORD shall not want any good thing.

The **young lions** often go hungry. Why? They are strong, filled with vigor and vim, and must faster than the older lion, yet the older lion is fed while the young lion is hungry. The **difference is their focus.**

The older lion has learned that certain things work together to help him eat on a regular basis. The older lion has learned that if *he gets real still and quiet and waits* then, sooner or later, his blessing will come to him. The young lion, on the other hand, chases anything that

moves. He is proud of his speed, his accomplishments, his abilities - and can't wait to show off for anyone in sight. The old lion has learned to *work in cooperation with other lions*. He knows he's not that fast, but if he has a buddy hide over in those bushes he can chase the gazelle toward the bush, then both he and his buddy will feed.

The young lion remains a *famished fool*, while the older lion remains a *fulfilled fellow*. The difference between *feeding* and *floundering* is found in your *focus*.

The young lion relies totally upon his own God given abilities, but does not take into account the abilities of those - both prey and partner - around him. Pride lifts him up. And hunger will kill him, if he doesn't learn.

1. If I Love God, It Is For My Good

There are *many things* that happen in this life that I just frankly do not understand. **William Shakespeare** wrote in his play **Macbeth**:

"Life is but a walking shadow, a poor player, that struts and frets his hour upon the stage and then is heard no more."

That's how the unbeliever views life - but not how the Christian should view life. As believers in Christ we know that God loves us. Look at what Paul said:

FOCAL Romans 8:28 And **we know that all things**

work together for good to them that love God,..

Word Study WE KNOW. We who are believers **know**. The word translated "**know**" in our text is the Greek Perfect Active Indicative of the verb **EIDO** (εἶδω Pronounced i'-do), which means "**to be aware of, to perceive, to understand**". The Apostle says "**we who believe understand - have a certain knowledge that all things work together for good to those who love God**".

He isn't saying that all things are good. There are many things in this life that aren't good, things we cannot understand, and things we bring on ourselves.

He is, however, saying that **all things work together for good to them that love God**. If you love God, *everything* that happens in your life, whether it looks good or bad, *works together for your good*.

How do I *know* that? Because I was there the day that Jesus saved me. I was there the day I experienced the love of God as He reached into my life and lifted me up out of the mire of sin. Listen Beloved: God loved you so very much that **He gave His only begotten Son for you (John 3:16)**. **When we were dead in our trespasses and in our sins (Ephesians 2:1)** the Lord decided to reach out His nail nail scarred hand for your sin scarred hand. **God loved you, and gave Himself for you (Galatians 2:20)**. The Bible tells us that:

1 John 4:9-10 In this was manifested the love of God toward us, because that God sent his only begotten Son into the world, that we might live through him. {10} Herein is love, not that we loved God, but that he loved us, and sent his Son to be the propitiation for our sins.

Do you honestly believe that God would spend the price He spent for you only to abandon you in this life? Absolutely not!

Illustrate I heard the story once of a little boy that was born crippled, his right foot so twisted that he had to walk on his ankle. His daddy took him to the best orthopedic doctors in the world, and one after the other said "The best we can do is cut off the foot, and put a prosthesis in its place". His daddy wasn't willing to do that. Instead he went to the library, and checked out every book he could find on orthopedics. Then he designed a box that would fit over his son's foot, with padded screws that could be adjusted. He told his son, "I love you very much. Do you believe that?" The boy said, "Yes, daddy, I do". The father put the box on his son's foot and then tightened the screws on it. As the screws tightened they started twisting the child's foot. The little boy cried out, "Daddy, stop, you're hurting me", but the father twisted the screws just a little tighter. He put his son to bed, and the next morning he continued to tighten those screws.

The child had to wear that box everywhere. His friends, seeing him with the box on his foot, laughed at him. Others accused his father of being cruel. But day by day

the father tightened those screws until, one day, he took the box off the boy's foot.

His leg was straight.

Each and every one of us are born *crooked*. We are sinners by nature. No child has to be taught how to lie - we are all born with that knowledge. But a Christian is someone **who has been freed from the law of sin and of death**. The Bible says:

CONTEXT Romans 8:2-4 For the law of the Spirit of life in Christ Jesus hath made me free from the law of sin and death. (3) For what the law could not do, in that it was weak through the flesh, God sending his own Son in the likeness of sinful flesh, and for sin, condemned sin in the flesh: (4) That the righteousness of the law might be fulfilled in us, who walk not after the flesh, but after the Spirit.

What has God done for the Christian? He has taken every bit of our sin on *Himself*. But what else has He done?

God has set up shop in us. God lives in His people. He has made us free from the law of sin and of death, and is working to fulfill the righteousness of God in us. God uses the box of trial to twist the crooked to make it straight!

Our salvation has a *practical outworking*. God is working in us. He, like the Father of my illustration, puts a corrective box on our crippled feet. That corrective box

may be a trial, or a trying person. It may be sickness. It may be a circumstance. But whatever it is, the purpose of that box is not to break our spirit, but to *twist us into conformity with His ways*. **We who are Christians are called of God to walk NOT after the flesh, but after the Spirit**. That only happens when you rely on the Lord.

Trials are not a cursing for the Christian, but they are a *great blessing*. You hear me? A blessing! They make us look upward and *prove our faith*.

FOCAL Romans 8:28 **And we know that all things work together for good to them that love God,...**

Trials do two things in our lives. First, as I said before, trials *turn us to look upward*. They correct our twisted spirits. But trials also *prove our faith*. I have met many who say "I am a Christian", but when trials come they cling to everything and everyone *but* Jesus.

ILLUSTRATE I was recently privileged to hear the testimony of a young woman who was dying of the worst form of cancer, one that caused tumors to form in her bones, heart, throughout her body. This young woman said - and I quote -

"I'd rather die being obedient to Jesus, than live being disobedient".

Nothing brings a person to a certain knowledge that he or she is saved than when we are tried and tested. If you are saved, and the love of God dwells in you, the trial

will not break you but make you stronger.

ILLUSTRATE When the believer stands before the **Red Sea, with the armies of Egypt charging at his back** he doesn't murmur and accuse God, saying "Why did you bring me here?" The believer, bound to the Holy Spirit of God, cries out "**Stand still, my soul, and see the salvation of the Lord**". It is the child who does not have his hand in the hand of the Lord that stands crying before the Rock of Ages, saying "**Where is my water?**" Oh Beloved, all things are *not good nor do they work together for good* if you are without Christ and outside of His fellowship. But if you are in His grasp you can say confidently with the Apostle Paul:

CONTEXT Romans 8:18 **For I reckon that the sufferings of this present time are not worthy to be compared with the glory which shall be revealed in us.**

WORD STUDY The word translated "**reckon**" is the Greek LOGIDZOMAI (λογίζομαι pronounced log-id'-zom-ahee), which means **to calculate, to work out, to compute, to count up, weigh the reasons, deliberate.**

Paul said "**I have weighed the evidence, looking at every bit of it. (2 Corinthians 11:24-29) Five times I was beaten by the Jews with 39 strokes of the whip - beaten like a dog. Three times I was beaten with rods - I think they broke bones then. I was stoned with stones outside Jerusalem until they thought me dead. Three times as I was hauled about as a Roman prisoner I suffered shipwreck, and once I floated in**

the sea a day and a night, sharks all about me. It seemed as if nature attacked me. Robbers attacked me. Those who grew up with me and went to school with me attacked me. Strangers attacked me. And even people I thought were my friends attacked me. Having weighed all this evidence in my own life, I am certain none of it compares to the glory that shall one day be revealed in me, in you, and in every believer in the Lord Jesus Christ!"

FOCAL Romans 8:28 And we know that **ALL THINGS** work together for good to them that love God, to them who are the called according to his purpose.

If you love the Lord then you should know that all things work together for your good. All things means just what it says. Everything that happens to a Christian is overseen by the Lord Who loves you. We who believe are *firmly* in the hand of Christ. Dear friends, God is in control of ALL THINGS in the Christian's life.

God is in control of the valleys, and in control of the mountains. ALL THINGS.

The Apostle James said:

James 1:2-4 My brethren, count it all joy when ye fall into divers temptations; {3} Knowing this, that the trying of your faith worketh patience. {4} But let patience have her perfect work, that ye may be perfect and entire, wanting nothing.

An untested faith is an unstable faith. ALL THINGS work together for your good, dear Christian - ALL THINGS. God is in control of all things. If you love Him, He will make sure that ALL THINGS work together for His good - whether what is happening to us makes sense to us or not.

ILLUSTRATE Henry Ford was one of the smartest business men who ever lived. When Ford was setting up to mass produce his "Model T" car he let several manufacturers place bids on building the transmission for his car. Ford not only specified how he wanted the transmission made, but also specified the exact size and dimensions of the *crates* that the transmissions were to be shipped in. Ford said that he wanted the screws in the crates at such and such an interval, the number of screws, and so on. Some manufacturers refused to bid because of Ford's specifications, but one manufacturer put in the low bid - crates and all. No one knew why Ford required the crates to be this way until later. When the transmissions began to come in, Ford had his crews disassemble the crates. The wood from the crates was cut - and pre-drilled perfectly - to be the *floorboards* for every car. He - in essence - got the transmission manufacturer to build his floorboards at no cost. All *left over wood* from the crates was processed into charcoal under the brand name of *Kingsford*.

Ford was but a man created by God. We are people created by God. When you do not understand how the hand of God is working, trust that the heart of God is still turned toward your good. **All things work together for good to them that LOVE GOD!**

2. If I Love God, I Have A Purpose

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

If you are saved by faith in Jesus Christ, then you have a purpose. God tells us:

CONTEXT Romans 8:13-14 For if ye live after the flesh, ye shall die: but if ye through the Spirit do mortify the deeds of the body, ye shall live. (14) For as many as are led by the Spirit of God, they are the sons of God.

a God wants His Children to be led by the Spirit of God. The world is in a race with death, but the believer is to be running with Life. We are to follow God the Holy Spirit, to be obedient to His Word. In Acts 5 we read the story of Ananias and Sapphira, two believers in the early Church who *walked into the Church led by pride and arrogance*. They ended up being *carried out of the Church dead* for lying to the Holy Spirit of God (Acts 5:3). A Child of God is to be led by the Spirit of God. The Scripture says:

CONTEXT Romans 8:5-6 For they that are after the flesh do mind the things of the flesh; but they that are after the Spirit the things of the Spirit. (6) For to be carnally minded is death; but to be spiritually minded is life and peace.

If you are saved, be led by Him Who saved you.
Follow His WORD and do His WILL.

b God wants His Children to be like His Son. The Bible says:

CONTEXT Romans 8:29 For whom He {God} did foreknow, He {God} also did predestinate to be conformed to the image of his Son, that he might be the firstborn among many brethren.

It is every Christian's purpose to *be like Jesus*. The Bible says those whom God did foreknow, He predestinated them to be conformed to the image of His own Son.

God does not predestine the lost to be saved. He predestines the saved to be like the Son. Listen to me, Beloved of God: It is the Savior's desire that you be like Him. It is the Saved Child's delight to be like Jesus. But it is the dread of the Devil that you ever understand the glorious purpose that God has predestined in you.

You will - dear believer - one day be like Jesus. It is more beneficial for God, for you, and for this world that you be like Jesus *now* rather than when you get to Heaven.

If every Christian in the Church understood that salvation is more than just getting your ticket punched for Heaven, we could empty Hell out. If every Christian

in this Church understood that it is God's intent that *you be like Jesus* then we would help one another more, come together more, and have a bigger impact on our world.

You see, when you treat your Christian faith as if it is an accessory in your life instead of *the all of your life*, then you will never change the world. The world needs believers to be like Jesus.

When we get to Heaven we will all be like Jesus. But that won't be as important in Heaven as it is on this present earth. The earth needs believers to be like Jesus. It is God's purpose in you that you be like Jesus!

Closing ILLUSTRATE I want to end with this final word. Please look at Romans 8:28 and let it seep into your hearts. Look at it like a **Stop Sign** if you are not sure that you are saved by faith in Jesus Christ. Stop what you are doing, and give yourself completely to Jesus. Look at it like a **Yield Sign** if you are saved, but have drifted from fellowship with the Savior.

This world is just like the Titanic. As people got on board that great ship they were classified in many different ways. People of color were given different rooms from Caucasians. People of money were given different treatment from people who had less money. Some were *first class, second class, or third class*. Some steered the ship, some were below decks in engineering, some ran food services or cleaning. But when they got off the Titanic, there were only two types of people: **Those who were saved, and those who were lost.**



FOCAL Read Responsively Romans 8:28 And we know that all things work together for good to them that love God, to them who are the called according to his purpose.

Psalms 34:10

1. If I Love God, It Is For My Good

Romans 8:28; John 3:16; Ephesians 2:1; Galatians 2:20; 1 John 4:9-10; Romans 8:2-4; Romans 8:28; Romans 8:18; 2 Corinthians 11:24-29; Romans 8:28; James 1:2-4

WORD STUDY WE KNOW. We who are believers **know**. The word translated "**know**" in our text is the Greek Perfect Active Indicative of the verb **EIDO**

WORD STUDY The word translated "**reckon**" is the Greek LOGIDZOMAI (λογιζομαι pronounced log-id'-zom-ahee), which means _____

2. If I Love God, I Have A Purpose

Romans 8:28; Romans 8:13-14; Acts 5:3; Romans 8:5-6; Romans 8:29

a God wants His Children to _____

b God wants His Children _____

You will - dear believer - one day be like Jesus. It is more beneficial for God, for you, and for this world that you be like Jesus *now* rather than when you get to Heaven.