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Together For Good

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In Romans 8 Paul tells us all things work together for our good, that is, all things work together to deliver the glory God has promised to His beloved people. It is important to distinguish what is earthly good and temporal and what is spiritual good and eternal. The people of this world, being spiritually blind, measure joy and success in terms of earthly prosperity which is deceptive and fleeting. Spiritual men and women know with Paul, 'that the sufferings of this present time are not worthy to be compared with the glory which shall be revealed in us'.

How inclusive is 'all things'?

Paul tells us all things are presently working together for our good. This includes God in His three persons who has loved us, redeemed us and is presently applying the blessings of divine grace and mercy to us. It includes everything created in the kingdom of heaven, in the realm of earth and in the depths of hell. Angels, devils, principalities and powers, all events, circumstances and people, every invention, technology and discovery, every good act, every sinful act, everything is actively engaged in contributing to the good of God's elect.

A certain fact

This is important for us to know as we face hardship. This is not 'pie in the sky'. It is not a vain hope that good will someday flow from our present bad experiences like some kind of karma, or even that our troubles will be less in time to come. All things are presently and actively serving under divine command to do good for us now and always, whether seen or unseen. What we perceive as good things and bad things, prosperity and adversity, desirable and undesirable, be they temporal or spiritual, are all moving with purpose and engaged actively 'together' to accomplish God's will for our glory and eternal joy.

God is in control

Our God is not battling against the evil and harmful powers of this world. He is ordering their sin and rebellion to supply His people's temporal needs and ensure their spiritual glory. The wrath of man serves our King (Psalm 76:10). When the Lord Jesus came into the world He came to do His Father's will and go to the cross. He suffered and died. It pleased the Lord to bruise Him according to 'the determinate counsel and foreknowledge of

God’. Nevertheless, it was by the vicious nature of His enemies He was taken, and by wicked hands crucified and slain.

Things we know to be so

Paul says we know these things to be so and he is right. By faith in Jesus Christ we know that our salvation is certain and our glory assured. Yet, the outworking of sin in this fallen world clouds our view and brings pain, tears, regret, hardship and loss to all men alike, we are not immune. Our peace is that through it all, and despite our ignorance, our Lord who is all-wise, all-powerful and ever-faithful has ‘all things’ in hand. He who loves us will never leave us nor forsake us. We know He is working all things together for our good.

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