

Studies In Romans

(Romans 8:28-39)

1. For whom does all things work together for good?

Those who love God and are called according to HIS purpose: *“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” (Romans 8:28).*

- *Remember this point from here forward... For one, as we will be discussing being “called” in this context more than just here, let’s be mindful that our calling is by and through the Gospel (II Thessalonians 2:14).
- This verse is not teaching that things are always smooth and easy for God’s faithful (**Matthew 5:10-12, Matthew 16:21, Luke 9:22, Luke 9:57-58, Luke 18:31-34, I Thessalonians 3:1-4, II Timothy 3:12, and I Peter 4:12-14**).
- Remember, God’s definition of “good” is not the same as man’s (**Isaiah 55:7-9 and Matthew 7:21-23**; cf. **II Timothy 3:16-17**).
- The point is, as this context will conclude with, that SPIRITUAL things ULTIMATELY work out for good for the faithful (**Psalms 94:14 and II Corinthians 4:9**). Howbeit, that may not be until death (**Luke 16:19-31**). Yet, even in this world, there is a certain peace we carnally have (**Psalms 37:25**).
- We can have confidence in times of trouble (**Psalms 46:1-2**).
- The qualifier cannot be overlooked either. Who are those who “love God”? According to the Scriptures, it is those who obey Him (**Deuteronomy 5:10, Deuteronomy 7:9, Deuteronomy 30:20, John 14:15, John 14:21-24, John 15:10-14, I John 2:3-6, and I John 5:2-3**).
- What is His purpose that we are called to? According to the Scriptures, it is His pleasure (**Ecclesiastes 12:13-14 and Revelation 4:11**).

2. Does God foreknow those who were and will be called and justified?

Of course: *“(29) For whom he did foreknow, he also did predestinate to be conformed to the image of his Son, that he might be the firstborn among many brethren. (30) Moreover whom he did predestinate, them he also called: and whom he called, them he also justified: and whom he justified, them he also glorified” (Romans 8:29-30).*

- God foreknows who will be His (**Jeremiah 1:5 and I Peter 1:1-2**).
- He also predestined that the called be conformed to the image of His Son (**Ephesians 1:1-12**; cf. **I Peter 2:21 and I John 2:3-6**).
- That Christ might be the firstborn (**Colossians 1:13-18**) of many of His brethren (**Matthew 12:46-50**).
- Called (**I Corinthians 1:2**), justified (**Titus 3:7**), and glorified (**I Thessalonians 2:12**).
- We should be mindful that many false teachers twists Scriptures such as these (**II Peter 3:15-17**) to deny freewill and teach that God chooses people who are saved without any doing of our own. They miss His foreknowledge and

confuse it with decision making. We know this is a false doctrine for we very much have a choice in our salvation (**Acts 2:40, Philippians 2:12, and James 4:8-10**) and our judgment will be based on our actions (**John 5:28-29**) not God being a respecter of persons (**Acts 10:34 and Romans 2:11**).

3. What evidence did the Lord give us to prove that when He is for us that no one can ultimately overcome us?

“(31) What shall we then say to these things? If God be for us, who can be against us? (32) He that spared not his own Son, but delivered him up for us all, how shall he not with him also freely give us all things” (Romans 8:31-32)?

- For one, why worry about a spiritual enemy when we are servants of God (**I John 4:4**).
- The evidence provided is what He did in not sparing His only begotten Son (**John 3:16, Romans 5:6-10, and I John 4:6-10**).
- Remember, what happened to Jesus was foreknown by God (**Acts 2:22-23**).

4. Do we have to worry about man trying to condemn us?

No: *“(33) Who shall lay any thing to the charge of God's elect? It is God that justifieth. (34) Who is he that condemneth? It is Christ that died, yea rather, that is risen again, who is even at the right hand of God, who also maketh intercession for us” (Romans 8:33-34).*

- First off, we should be clear that these verses do not teach us that we should not be concerned about about what men say about us (**Philippians 2:14-16, Titus 2:7-8, and I Peter 3:15-17**).
- Faithful Christians are the “elect” (**Colossians 3:12, I Thessalonians 1:4, and II Peter 1:3-10**).
- It is Christ, not man, that has the power to condemn (**John 12:48, Romans 14:4-12, and II Corinthians 5:10**).
- To our advantage, Christ is also our intercessor (**Hebrews 4:14-16 and I John 2:1-2**).

5. Can anything, aside from our own evil doings (Isaiah 59:1-2, Luke 8:13, Romans 2:1-3, Romans 6:23, and Hebrews 10:26-31), separate us from the love of Christ?

No: *“(35) Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? shall tribulation, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or peril, or sword? (36) As it is written, For thy sake we are killed all the day long; we are accounted as sheep for the slaughter. (37) Nay, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him that loved us. (38) For I am persuaded, that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor principalities, nor powers, nor things present, nor things to come (39) Nor height, nor depth, nor any other creature, shall be able to separate us from the love of God, which is in Christ Jesus our Lord” (Romans 8:35-39).*

- Nothing, beyond your choosing, can separate you from God (**John 10:27-29 and II Timothy 1:12**).