

My Jesus #6 – “All things...”

Romans 8:28-29

“My Jesus!”

Paul cried out, “*O wretched man that I am... Who shall deliver me?*”

God met him in that moment. Answered him, and then led him to write of the amazing truths he needed and found.

God preserved the answers In Romans 8 for us to discover and experience.

Now, most if not all of us know the basic answer to everything: *Jesus!*

But **understanding what that really means,**

- *Moment by moment*
- *In the depths of our hearts where no one else can see*
- *In the changing and often challenging circumstances of life,*

Is a challenge for us just as it was Paul.

These answers - these nuggets of practical truths -are God

- Meeting us right where we are, as we are,
- Helping us live with not just **a rote answer** – “Jesus” – but in the moment-by-moment **reality of “My Jesus”!**

Today, God chooses to pull back the curtain of eternity and give us a glimpse of profound truth. Truth beyond time and our abilities of observation. Insight that is... staggering.

We hear often that, “**Seeing is believing.**” Sometimes that is true; often, it is not. We think we know, see, understand – **but we just can’t.**

Today, **God slips into our hearts and minds, where our deepest struggles occur and the groans beyond words reside – and entrusts us with something far better, life changing in fact.**

As we learn, and grasp the wonder of His Words, “**Believing is seeing.**”

Ready for Wonderland? Ready to peek behind the curtain - not of Oz, but of the heart of our Creator God?

We'll slowly take it phrase by phrase. Let it sink in.

"Not seeing... But believing" - ***Able to look beyond what lies before us, and rest in Him.***

I. "And we know"

A. A simple conjunction – "And" – "but, moreover", "and"

From sufferings and infirmities where He meets us with hope and help, He gently continues the conversation.

Beyond the stuff that makes **creation as well as believers groan**
Beyond the stuff that reaches **so deep within us that we don't even have words, just groans,**
He pulls up beside our aching souls and struggling minds and pulls back the curtain.

B. A stabilizing concept – ***"we know"***

There is little in life that we can control.

We like to, don't we?!

We want to. Feel we need to. But most of the time, just can't.

About the only absolute control God has given us is the ability to choose. No one can take that from us.

Now, **God leads us from our helplessness and a whole creation groaning beyond our ability to fix – to something WE CAN KNOW, AND SOMETHING WE CAN DO.**

"And we know" – **or at least we can...!**

II. "That All Things" (The Scope)

A. What does that entail?

God gives us a few glimpses -

John wrote –

"All things were made by him; and without him was not any thing made that was made." John 1:3

Revelation 4:11 - *Thou art worthy, O Lord, to receive glory and honour and power: for thou hast created all things, and for thy pleasure they are and were created.*

B. "All things"

- Great. Small.
- Visible. Invisible.
- Good. Bad.
- Past. Current.
- Any metric. Anything that is. Any action that happens.

Nothing is left out!

What are your "all things" this morning?

- Some of your 'all things' are beautiful; Some are breaking you.
- Some are prayers answered. Some seem ignored.
- Some are scars nobody knows how to touch.
- Yet God does not step away from any of them.

"All things..."

III. "work together for good" – (Divine Synergy)

A. What it doesn't say:

- *All things are good.*
- *All things bring us good.*

B. The "Synergy".

1. Greek: "synergeō": "together" + "work"

So - "*all*" (Greek "*pas*" – All things) + Synergize "*work together*"

C. Literal translation: "All is working in synergy"

The God who created "all things" is *working all the pieces of life together.* Whatever their source or substance, He takes all of it and then *uses them as they are to accomplish not their purpose, but His!*

As **the potter** takes and molds the clay...

The Master Potter takes everything and then works it together...

In context – “*all things*” + God + “*them*” = **Ultimate product!**

From the world of things we can see, God pulls back the curtain to let us see beyond to where He is and what He is doing. *To What End? What is beyond?*

IV. “for good”

God works everything good and bad to produce something beyond all the pieces - “*for good*”.

A. What is “good”?

1. “*Blessed*”

It echoes the Biblical concept of “*blessing*”. The Psalms begins revealing the purpose of God- “*Blessed is the man...*”

Take a look at Psalm 37 sometime – David, who loves God and is God’s child, is suffering instead of singing. **Where’s the blessing?**

The issue is *what we think would be a blessing* and *what God knows will be blessing*.

His blessing - the last Psalm, 150, ends with “Praise ye the Lord!”

God’s blessing is not just in the moment.

It can be now, but is beyond the moment. It is what we will be glad for, praise because of, when we one day look back!

2. “*good*” – It is much the same with “*for good*”.

What we want is nothing compared with what God knows is best and wants for us.

What is “good”?

- **Lives that are healthy, wealthy and wise?**
- **All of our dreams and desires coming true?**

- **“Good”** may very well be “everything OK’, happiness, what we want. It may not.
- **“Good”** might be obvious – and we will rejoice in it! It might be hidden, perhaps never seen, at least here.

B. Shouldn’t “good” include things that are good?

God loves to delight His children. (Cf. Psm. 37). **But there is more.**

Joy is one of the fruit God is working in us, along with **love and peace and goodness!** But these are only part of the picture. There is more.

Heaven is described – Wonders. Sights. Sounds. Thrills! God Himself! Of course God loves to delight those He loves!

C. The key: Vs. 29 – The ultimate good – To be like Jesus!

“conformed to the image of His dear Son”

It’s

- Not what we have.
- Not what we experience.

It’s Who we become! The “us” we were meant to be and can only become in Him!

If Jesus is the essence of life, glory, love – the source of it all – Then to become like Him is the ultimate good, the fulfillment of life itself.

God is working. Always.

God is crafting. Always.

Beyond the moment. Beyond the “all things” – God is bringing us day by day, experience by experience – to His goal!

V. “to them”

A. This awesome assurance is not for everyone.

It can be. That why Jesus came – “God so loved THE WORLD”. The gift of God is eternal life in Jesus Christ! It is yours to receive, and all that He is becomes yours forever!

But – we each have a choice. Regardless of anything else in life, God presents you His love and life in Jesus. You can... *will* choose to reject, or receive it.

B. To every single child of God – To those who now love Him, because He first loved us...

This absolute truth is ours.

Realize it. *Believing is seeing.*

Rest in it. Live in the grip of His grace rather than gripped by the “all things of life”

Live moment by moment with Him, knowing something no one can see: My Jesus is in every moment working all things for my good and His glory!

One day, when the groaning is over...

when the fog lifts...

when faith becomes sight...

We will discover that not one moment was wasted.

- Not one tear.
- Not one prayer.
- Not one battle.
- Not one breaking.

Our Father was crafting sons and daughters who looked like Jesus all along.