



3D Guide

DO.

BOTTOM LINE: We can faithfully endure suffering because we know that God will use it to make us more like Jesus.



DIG DEEPER.

1. What does this study reveal to you about God?
2. What does this study reveal to you about yourself?
3. Based on this, what changes do you need to make?
4. What is your prayer for today?



DISCUSS.

1. How does the truth of the Holy Spirit interceding for us with groanings too deep for words resonate with you? How does this reassurance impact your prayer life and your relationship with God?
2. In verses 28-30, Paul speaks about God working all things together for good for those who love Him. How does this promise provide comfort and hope in the midst of life's challenges and uncertainties?
3. The passage mentions that God "foreknew" and "predestined" those whom He called. What do these terms mean in the context of God's plan for our lives? How do they relate to our understanding of God's sovereignty and human free will?



DO.

Anytime you read God's word you have to put things into perspective. You also have to realize that the terms, not words, have meanings. As a group re-read the scriptures that were studied. Try a the Amplified Version and compare that to the NJKV, NIV, ESV, or NASB. Pick a few words and have a group member look that word up on blueletterbible.com or with their app.





Title: Coffee Mug Christianity: A Greater Good

Scripture: Romans 8:26-30

Date: 08/13/2023

Bible Version: NKJV

BOTTOM LINE: We can faithfully endure suffering because we know that God will use it to make us more like Jesus.

Never Read a Bible Verse

“Never read a Bible verse” is a reminder that every Bible verse is written in a context, in a specific time period, and for a specific purpose. Every Bible verse fits within a larger story.

—Dan Kimball

Bible verses you won't find on the front of a mug:

-Happy is the one who seizes your infants and dashes them against the rocks. - Psalm 137:9 (NIV)

-And the unicorns shall come down with them, and the bullocks with the bulls; and their land shall be soaked with blood, and their dust made fat with fatness. - Isaiah 34:7 (KJV)

- Context controls the meaning of Scripture.
- It's not enough to place a verse on a coffee mug if we don't understand it or let it affect our lives.

Romans 8:26-30

26 Likewise the Spirit also helps in our weaknesses. For we do not know what we should pray for as we ought, but the Spirit Himself makes intercession for us with groanings which cannot be uttered. 27 Now He who searches the hearts knows what the mind of the Spirit is, because He makes intercession for the saints according to the will of God. 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.

Definition

- The promise of Romans 8:28 is often misunderstood to mean God will always provide safe, comfortable, and “good” situations in my life.

What is Good?: To become more like Jesus in our everyday lives.

- The primary good that Romans 8:28 is not pursuing better circumstances, a better job, a better house, but a better YOU, one that looks more like Jesus (conformed to the image of His son).
- Everything that happens to us in this life (good or bad) is directed toward that goal.

God is able to work ALL things, not some things. He works them for good together, not in isolation.

—David Guzik

Development

- God wants you to mature. God's goal is not to make you happy, but holy. To develop and grow you to be more like Jesus.
- In this fallen world evil is prevalent, but God can still work in our pain and suffering.
- In the story of Joseph (Genesis 37-50) we see he encountered setbacks, slavery, and slander yet God was still at work.
- God was developing his character, working in his heart, developing patience and perseverance.
- He went from the pit, to the prison, to the palace.

-But as for you, you meant evil against me; but God meant it for good, in order to bring it about as it is this day, to save many people alive. - Genesis 50:20

- God's ways are higher than ours, and He can use even the darkest chapters of our lives to bring about His greater glory.

Driving Force

- The Holy Spirit strengthens us and sustains us through times of trial.
- One of the greatest mistakes we can make is try and do God's will without God's power (the Spirit within us).
- When we don't even know what to say or how to say it, the spirit appeals on our behalf so that we might live in the will of God.

The Holy Spirit lays hold of our weaknesses along with us and carries his part of the burden facing us as if we were carrying a log, one at each end.

—A. T. Robinson

Dependability

- We can hold on to the promise of Romans 8:28 because God is a promise keeper - all powerful, all knowing, and never failing.
- Romans 8:28-30 is often referred to as “the golden chain of redemption” — because of its five “links” of divine foreknowing, predestining, calling, justifying, and glorifying.
- While being ‘glorified is a future event, Paul writes it in the past tense to show that it is so certain to happen that it is a good as done.

The believer never need to faint in times of suffering and trial because he knows that God is at work in the world, and that He has a perfect plan. God has two purposes in that plan: our good and His glory. Ultimately, He will make us like Jesus Christ! Best of all, God’s plan is going to succeed!

—Warren Wiersbe

- What God started He will finish.