Romans 8:28-30 Purpose in Suffering

God works all things to the good. That is a wonderful promise. Yet it is essential that we understand who it is for, what it means, and how firmly we can trust that it is true.

Topic: Suffering, Sanctification

==========

*Book meme

What can I know when I am suffering?
-That God is using it for my good and His glory, that nothing is wasted, and that He will finish what He has started.

ALL THINGS FOR THE GOOD:
-v28: The Promise
-v29: The Purpose
-v30: The Permanence

-

ALL THINGS FOR THE GOOD:
v28: The Promise

“And we know”

In contrast to what we don't know. V26

“that all things”

“work together for good”

“Work together” = synergeō(συνεργέω)5x; where we get our word “synergy” from.

-

*flour

*baking soda

*vanilla

*sugar

*eggs

*cake

-

What Good?

Genesis 50:20 — “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.

-

1 Peter 4:12 — Beloved, do not think it strange concerning the fiery trial which is to try you, as though some strange thing happened to you;

1 Peter 1:6-7 — In this you greatly rejoice, though now for a little while, if need be, you have been grieved by various trials, that the genuineness of your faith, being much more precious than gold that perishes, though it is tested by fire, may be found to praise, honor, and glory at the revelation of Jesus Christ,

“Every adverse experience when rightly received can carry its quota of good.”
~J. Oswald Sanders

-

“to those who love God, to those who are the called according to His purpose.”
-This is the same group of people, but viewed from two angles; the human and the divine.

John 21:15-17

Luke 22:31-32 — And the Lord said, “Simon, Simon! Indeed, Satan has asked for you, that he may sift you as wheat. But I have prayed for you, that your faith should not fail; and when you have returned to Me, strengthen your brethren.”

Do you love Jesus?
-If so, you are one of “the called”

-

ALL THINGS FOR THE GOOD:

v28: The Promise
v29: The Purpose

“For whom He foreknew, He also predestined”

1 Peter 1:2 — elect according to the foreknowledge of God the Father…

Have you ever realized that God cannot realize anything?

Everyone has a predetermined destiny,
one way or the other….
-But Romans 8 isn't talking about the destiny of everyone, it is talking about the destiny of believers.

-

“to be conformed to the image of His Son”

1 Thessalonians 4:3 — For this is the will of God, your sanctification…
-(I.e. to become more like Jesus)

God is more concerned with your holiness than your happiness.

Dieting doesn't make anyone happy.
-But many endure it, knowing that their health is the greater good.
-And if we know that God is working all things to the greater good, we can better endure unpleasant things

-

“that He might be the firstborn among many brethren.”

Thank God heaven won't be filled with people like you or me…
It will be filled with people like Jesus…

-

ALL THINGS FOR THE GOOD:
v28: The Promise
v29: The Purpose
v30: The Permanence

“Moreover whom He predestined, these He also called”

Matthew 22:3 — “and sent out his servants to call those who were invited to the wedding; and they were not willing to come.”

-

“whom He called, these He also justified; and whom He justified, these He also glorified.”

The Golden Chain

Philippians 1:6 — being confident of this very thing, that He who has begun a good work in you will complete it until the day of Jesus Christ;

-

Philippians 1:19-20 — For I know that this [being in prison] will turn out for my deliverance through your prayer and the supply of the Spirit of Jesus Christ, according to my earnest expectation and hope that in nothing I shall be ashamed, but with all boldness, as always, so now also Christ will be magnified in my body, whether by life or by death.

-

Ted E.

We know that God works ALL things to the good of making us more like Jesus…
-The question is: Are you willing to embrace that fact when you suffer?

What can I know when I am suffering?
-That God is using it for my good and His glory, that nothing is wasted, and that He will finish what He has started.