

## ROMANS 8:28

<sup>6</sup>“And the Holy Spirit helps us in our weakness. For example, we don’t know what God wants us to pray for. But the Holy Spirit prays for us with groanings that cannot be expressed in words. <sup>27</sup>And the Father who knows all hearts knows what the Spirit is saying, for the Spirit pleads for us believers in harmony with God’s own will. <sup>28</sup>**And we know that God causes everything to work together for the good of those who love God and are called according to His purpose for them.** <sup>29</sup>For God knew His people in advance, and He chose them to become like His Son, so that His Son would be the firstborn among many brothers and sisters. <sup>30</sup> And having chosen them, He called them to come to Him. And having called them, He gave them right standing with Himself. And having given them right standing, He gave them His glory.

<sup>31</sup> What shall we say about such wonderful things as these? If God is for us, who can ever be against us? <sup>32</sup>Since He did not spare even His own Son but gave Him up for us all, won’t He also give us everything else? <sup>33</sup> Who dares accuse us whom God has chosen for His own? No one—for God Himself has given us right standing with Himself. <sup>34</sup> Who then will condemn us? No one—for Christ Jesus died for us and was raised to life for us, and He is sitting in the place of honor at God’s right hand, pleading for us.

<sup>35</sup>Can anything ever separate us from Christ’s love? Does it mean He no longer loves us if we have trouble or calamity, or are persecuted, or hungry, or destitute, or in danger, or threatened with death?

<sup>36</sup>(As the Scriptures say, ‘For your sake we are killed every day; we are being slaughtered like sheep.’) <sup>37</sup>No, despite all these things, overwhelming victory is ours through Christ, who loved us.

<sup>38</sup> And I am convinced that nothing can ever separate us from God’s love. Neither death nor life, neither angels nor demons, neither our fears for today nor our worries about tomorrow—not even the powers of hell can separate us from God’s love.

<sup>39</sup>No power in the sky above or in the earth below—indeed, nothing in all creation will ever be able to separate us from the love of God that is revealed in Christ Jesus our Lord.” Romans 8:26-39 (NLT)

### MESSAGE NOTES:

- 1) The Coffee Cup version of Romans 8:28 tries to turn this verse into a FORCE FIELD of protection and blessings.
- 2) That’s not what it says. But if we believe that, when TRAGEDIES STRIKE, we can find ourselves not questioning our BAD THEOLOGY , but wondering if God IS THERE, and, if He LOVES US.
- 3) Well meaning people often say, “EVERYTHING HAPPENS FOR A REASON.” And Christians sometimes take this a step further by saying, “Well, since everything happens for a reason, I don’t understand it; but this must be GOD’S WILL.” It’s often meant to comfort; but it’s really BAD THEOLOGY!
- 4) Why is this so important?

*“What we think of God and how we respond to Him are closely related.  
An inaccurate view of God can have disastrous effects on one’s personal religious experience.”  
Delores Kuenning, “Helping People Through Grief”*
- 5) Job’s friends probably meant well but they bought into “coffee cup theology” ...and that’s bad theology.
- 6) A better way to comfort people is called the MINISTRY OF PRESENCE...just being with people in their hurt. “The Lord is close to the brokenhearted; He rescues those whose spirits are crushed.” Psalm 34:18 (NLT)
- 7) Looking closer at Romans 8:28.

*“And we know that God causes everything to work together for the good of those who love God and are called according to His purpose for them.”*

**It Says...**

- God is good
- God is working
- God is powerful

**I does not say...**

- Everything is going to turn out alright in this life.
- Everything that happens is God's will

**8) We should also look TO WHOM this blessing is given.**

- To those who love God and are called according to His purpose for them.

**9) Do I love God?**

- John 21: Jesus asks Peter 3 times if he loves Him.

*“Jesus replied, ‘You must love the Lord your God with all your heart, all your soul, and all your mind.’ This is the first and greatest commandment.” Matthew 22:37-38 (NLT)*

**10) One of our biggest struggles is often, we want to know the REASON WHY.**

- We don't always get the “why.”
- But we do get...

(vs 30) Right standing with God in Jesus

(vs 31) God standing with us

(vs 32) God's own son

(vs.34) Jesus pleading for us

(vs 39) Nothing can separate us from God.