

Ladies Bible Study  
*All Things for Good*  
Lesson 1: Introduction & Chapter One

**History:**

- Dates 1620-1686
- Married 1647
- At least seven children over the next 13 years. Four of his children died young

**Preface:**

- What's the goal of this book?
  - **"To make the godly joyful"** (1).
- It is not just that nothing **hurts** the godly, it is that *all things work together for **good** to them that love God* (1). To know that all things work together for good to them that love God should fill our hearts with joy.

**Introduction: Unpacking Romans 8:28**

- **First:** The glorious privilege – *All things work together for good*
- **Second:** The persons interested in this privilege – *Those who love God and are called*
- **Third:** The origin of this calling – *according to his purpose*
- **Two considerations about this glorious privilege:**
  - a. **First:** The certainty of the privilege – "We know"
    - We do not know perfectly, but we do know certainly
    - We know truly not exhaustively
    - You can know things in the realm of Christianity, doctrine, and the Bible as you do in mathematics.
      - The spirit of the age is to say, "It is complicated" or "nuanced". The spirit of the Christian is to say, "This I know for the Bible tells me so."

- It is pride to tell a math expert he is doing math wrong because you cannot understand calculus. It is pride to tell God He is making mistakes in your life because you cannot understand it.
- b. **Second:** The excellency of the privilege – “All things work together for good”
  - As a pharmacist takes several ingredients which in themselves may be poisonous and mixes them together to bring about your good so God takes several providences which in themselves may be deadly to bring about your good. The take away of this is a call to contentment in life.

## Chapter 1:

- The *best* things work for good to the godly

### 1. God's Attributes

#### a. *Power*

- i. “Is your sin strong? God is powerful...” (8).
  - 1. We must confess, “I am weak, **but** He is strong!”
    - a. It is not spiritually healthy to proclaim, “I am strong!”
    - b. It is not spiritually healthy to only proclaim “I am weak.”
    - c. It is spiritually healthy to proclaim, “I am weak, **but** He is strong.”

#### b. *Wisdom*

- i. He who has all power also has all wisdom. This means He applies His power to the lives of His people with perfect knowledge and execution.

#### c. *Goodness*

- i. God's goodness, his kindness toward us, leads us to repentance (Rom. 2:4).
- ii. How can I do this thing and sin against my God? (Gen. 39:9).
- iii. Common blessings & crowning blessings (9).

### 2. God's promises

- a. Whether we are facing sin, trouble, or lack in some way, Watson shows from God's word that **there is a promise** that works for our good in God's word. Let's consider an example:
  - i. “Are we under the guilt of sin? **There is a promise**, 'The Lord, merciful and gracious' (Ex. 34:6)... God is more willing to pardon than to punish. Mercy does more multiply in Him than sin does in us” (9-10).

**b. How do the promises work for good?**

- i. The promises are food for faith; therefore, they strengthen faith as food strengthens the body.
- ii. The promises are springs of joy.

**3. God's mercies**

- a. 1 How sweet and awesome is the place  
with Christ within the doors,  
while everlasting love displays  
the choicest of her stores.

2 While all our hearts and all our songs  
join to admire the feast,  
each of us cries, with thankful tongue,  
**"Lord, why was I a guest?"**

**3 "Why was I made to hear Thy voice,  
and enter while there's room,  
when thousands make a wretched choice  
and rather starve than come?"**

- b. Why do, "God's mercies make us love him"? (12).
- c. God uses the mercies of the preached word, prayer, and Lord's Supper (14-15).

**4. God's graces**

- a. All the various graces in our life, from fear and faith, to hope and love, work together for good to the godly. For example:
  - i. "Faith keeps the heart cheerful, fear keeps the heart serious" (15).

**5. God's angels**

- a. "The highest angels take care of the lowest saints... See here the honor and dignity of a believer. He has God's name written upon him (Rev. 3:12), the Holy Ghost dwelling in him (2 Tim. 1:14), and a guard of angels attending him [(Ps. 91:11)]" (16-17).

**6. Communion of the saints**

a. Rom. 1:11-12

7. Christ's intercession

a. Christ prays for three things for us:

- i. That we would be kept from sin.
- ii. That we would grow in holiness
- iii. That we would be glorified. "Christ is not content till the saints are in his arms... When Satan is tempting, Christ is praying!" (18)

8. Our prayers

- a. God ordains the end as well as the means by which the end is reached (Acts 12:5-7). "The angel fetched Peter out of prison, but it was prayer fetched the angel" (19).
- b. We pray for one another and God uses our prayers

**Conclusion:**

If God's attributes, promises, mercies, graces, angels, communion with the saints, Christ's intercession, and the prayers of the saints work together for our good we have lots of reasons to be joyful today.