

Grounded & Growing

The Peace

Romans 8:28

January 25, 2025

HDBC

Have you ever asked the question; *Where is God when things go wrong?*
Accidents. Loss of job. Marriage breakup. Bills mounting.

Where is God when all that is happening? **He is where He has always been**, sovereignly working in the affairs of people in general, and of his people specifically.

We are taking a close look at Romans 8 which describes the wonderful change that God provides for every person who places faith in Jesus as Lord and Savior.

It begins with a . . .

Pardon – There is no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus.

It involves a

Tension – A glorious future is promised but we still live in broken world.

It brings with it a . . .

Helper – Holy Spirit never leaves us and helps us to pray

This morning I want us to look at the fourth element that comes with this extreme makeover. It is **Peace**.

There is an unusual and surprising gift of peace that God provides for those who are willing to trust Him. Romans 8:28 unwraps this truth for us.

And we know that God causes all things to work together for good to those who love God, to those who are called according to His purpose.

Great promise to believers. It is an . . .

Anchor that will help you through troubled waters. It is a . . .

Light that will lead you through dark valleys. It is a . . .

Rock to keep you from being shaken when your world falls apart.

Two Things the verse does not say:

1) **God causes all things** Not true.

God is sovereign over all things and nothing happens apart from His allowance. But it is inaccurate to say He directly causes all things. Why do things happen apart from God's direct cause?

Choices – we often make bad choices that bring harm.

Speeding, lose control and have an accident.

Cheat on a test and fail. God did not cause these things.

Natural/Physical Laws in a broken world

Bone in arm can take only so much pressure before it breaks.

Atmospheric conditions - tornado, hurricane.

Pain and suffering are part and parcel of planet earth, and Christians are not exempt (Phillip Yancey)

Allows Satan to cause trouble – Sometimes directly, as with **Job**
Sometimes using evil people, as with persecution of believers.

God does not directly cause all bad things that happen. However, there are **times when He does**. There are times when He brings pain, suffering and adversity into our lives for His own purposes and ultimately for our own good. It is not always easy to discern whether your current pain is directly caused by God or not. But don't worry. That is not really the most important thing. The important thing is to know that God is ready and willing to work through it for your good, regardless of the cause.

2) God causes all things to work

Some expect God to take their efforts and make them successful.

God will not make success out of your sin. Step outside His will and ask for His blessing and you will get a **no**, from God.

God works in the lives of His people in such a way that He brings good out of every circumstance and situation. There is nothing so painful, nothing so horrific, nothing so difficult, nothing so life-shattering that God cannot and will not bring good out of it.

Simply put:

God is intimately aware of everything you are going through.

God is intimately aware of what you are going through right now.

God is personally present with you in your current situation.

God is personally working right now to bring good out of your situation.

I want to use the main points of the sermon to show you five things about God. These will be a great source of peace to each of us.

1. God is too loving to leave us uncertain.

And we know

There are many things that we do not know. **Date of Jesus' return. How many angels there are. The full nature of the Trinity. Size of Heaven. God's specific will in every situation we face.**

We have human limitations that make it difficult to navigate this fractured world. Paul points out a couple of those limitations in this chapter. **We do not see** in verse 25.

We can't physically see the future. Cannot see all the things God has promised. So, we must rely on hope and faith. **We do not know how to pray** in verse 26. So the Holy Spirit helps us.

But the truth revealed in verse 28 is **a settled truth** that we can know with certainty. Those three words at the beginning of this verse are important. **And we know**. It does not say **we hope, we suppose, we wish**. What is about to be written can be known with certainty. This is a promise that can and will bring great peace to us.

God is too loving to leave us uncertain.

2. God is too caring to be uninvolved.

That God causes

God cares too much to remain distant and uninvolved. Where is God when things go wrong? Right in midst of the situation, working in lives of His children. Willing to get involved in all our entanglements. This treasure of truth should fill our hearts with praise. It should lead to an unshakeable faith.

Causes - *synergism*

The working together of various elements to produce an effect greater than, and often completely different from the sum of each element acting separately.

Separate things that become good when brought together. **Table salt**. **Composed of two poisonous chemicals, sodium and chlorine.**

Read Psalm 139. He absolutely cares about the details of your life. He notices your little victories and defeats. Regardless of the situation, **look for the touch of God's hand**. It is there, because He is interested in you. He is interested in you because He loves you. Too interested to be uninvolved. **Child concerned about lose tooth, teen worried about how they look, single parent** wondering how she will make it.

God is too loving to leave us uncertain.

God is too caring to be uninvolved.

3. God is too strong to be limited.

All things

It doesn't take much for most of us to reach our limitations.

Lifting weights. Sprinting. Playing an instrument. Painting a picture.

There are some things that we just cannot do. Not a matter of effort.
Not a matter of want to. Not a matter of training. Just lack of ability.
Not so with God. We might say *the sky's the limit*. That may be true for us. But even the sky is not the limit for God.

He can open a sea and cause His people to walk through on dry land.

He can cause an iron axe head to float on water.

He can turn water into blood . . . or into wine.

He can cause the dead to live and the living to die.

He can shut the mouths of hungry lions and

shield His people from the heat of a furnace of fire.

He can cause an old woman to give birth. Better yet . . .

He can cause a virgin to conceive and have a child.

He can paint a new sunset every evening.

He can position the stars to form constellations for our enjoyment.

He keeps the earth spinning on its axis at just the right speed.

He can do all things. There is no limit to His power.

So, whatever is needed to bring good for you, He can do it!

God is too loving to leave us uncertain.

God is too caring to be uninvolved.

God is too strong to be limited.

4. God is too wise to be without a plan.

To work together for good

He will take what would normally be a bad situation and produce something good from it. Doesn't mean he will erase the negative or neutralize the pain. It means he will manipulate the circumstances in

such a way that the ultimate good which results will outweigh the bad that was experienced. What are the kinds of **good** that come to us?

- 1) Redirects you toward a better future.
- 2) Bring new people into your life.
- 3) Protect you from some harm.
- 4) Grow your faith
- 5) Teach you things about God that you could learn no other way.
- 6) Teach you that He is faithful in all things and can be trusted.
- 7) To give you a hunger for Heaven where all will be good.

Bernard Gilpin was on his way to London to be tried for his faith. He refused to recant, trusting that God knows best. On way fell and broke leg. His faith was challenged but he stayed true. They postponed the trial until his leg healed. During that time the Queen died and his life spared. A broken leg was used by God for good.

My dad lost his job in Alabama, leading us to move to Louisiana. There, I met the love of my life. God used a negative to bring good.

Hard to see the hand of God in the moment. But it is not too hard to see it when you look back.

God is too loving to leave us uncertain.

God is too caring to be uninvolved.

God is too strong to be limited.

God is too wise to be without a plan.

5. God is too pure to bless sin.

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

There are some limitations with this promise. Not in terms of the circumstances, but the people involved in them. It is not for everyone. Some are excluded. **Hurricane roars through Florida. Some will look back and see how God used it for good. Others will not. What makes**

the difference? Why will God cause it to become good for some and not for others? Here is an important truth to remember.

God will not force anyone to accept His offer of grace and love. In spite of His great desire for all to be saved, He allows individuals to respond with yes or no. This promise is only for those who have said yes. Those who know God, who love God, who know that they are called by God for His purposes, understand that God is intimately involved in their lives. They know it. They look for it. They expect it. And they find it.

Life involves tough experiences at every level of life. It can be tough to be a seven-year-old. It can be tough to be a 15-year-old. There are difficulties at every stage of life. Life is a series of ups and downs, good and bad times. **Like riding a bike on a hilly highway.** At times you can feel the wind in your face as you coast downhill without a care in the world. At other times you are grinding and groaning uphill just trying to survive. You cannot avoid the hills.

When they come, remember...

God is too loving to leave us uncertain.

God is too caring to be uninvolved.

God is too strong to be limited.

God is too wise to be without a plan.

God is too pure to bless sin.