

Bumper Sticker Theology

Everything Happens For a Reason

4-7-19

What are we *really* saying when we say, "Everything happens for a reason?"

1. _____: Nothing happens without the determination of God.

Matthew 10:28-29 - Do not be afraid of those who kill the body but cannot kill the soul. Rather, be afraid of the One who can destroy both soul and body in hell. ²⁹ Are not two sparrows sold for a penny? Yet not one of them will fall to the ground apart from the will of your Father.

2. _____:

Genesis 1:1-5 - In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth. ² Now the earth was formless and empty, darkness was over the surface of the deep, and the Spirit of God was hovering over the waters. ³ And God said, "Let there be light," and there was light. ⁴ God saw that the light was good, and he separated the light from the darkness. ⁵ God called the light "day," and the darkness he called "night." And there was evening, and there was morning – the first day.

Genesis 1:26-27 - Then God said, "Let us make man in our image, in our likeness, and **let them rule over** the fish of the sea and the birds of the air, over the livestock, over all the earth, and over all the creatures that move along the ground." ²⁷ So God created man in his own image, in the image of God he created him; male and female he created them.

Would people use the dominion he gave them to carry out His good order? Or would they choose their own way, defining their own "good"?

Genesis 3:1-6 - Now the serpent was more crafty than any of the wild animals the Lord God had made. He said to the woman, "Did God really say, 'You must not eat from any tree in the garden'?" ² The woman said to the serpent, "We may eat fruit from the trees in the garden, ³ but God did say, 'You must not eat fruit from the tree that is in the middle of the garden, and you must not touch it, or you will die.'" ⁴ "**You will not surely die,**" the serpent said to the woman. ⁵ "For God knows that when you eat of it **your eyes will be opened, and you will be like God, knowing good and evil.**" ⁶ When the woman saw that the fruit of the tree was good for food and pleasing to the eye, and also desirable for gaining wisdom, she took some and ate it. She also gave some to her husband, who was with her, and he ate it.

Matthew 6:10 - ...your kingdom come, your will be done on earth as it is in heaven.

- The _____ ...and His name is Jesus!

Revelations 21:4 - He will wipe every tear from their eyes. There will be no more death or mourning or crying or pain, for the old order of things has passed away."

Big Idea: God will use _____ that happens for the good.

1. God's _____.

Romans 8:28 - And we **know** that in **all** things God **works** for the **good** of those who **love him**, who have been **called** according to his **purpose**.

* What it **doesn't** say: It does not say that all things are good. It does not say that all things work out the way I want them. It does not say that all things have a happy ending here on earth.

* What **it does** say: "*And we know...*"

2. God's _____.

God's number one purpose for our life has never changed: to shape us to be like **Christ**.

Romans 8:29-30 - For those God foreknew he also predestined to be conformed to the likeness of his Son, that he might be the firstborn among many brothers.

³⁰ And those he predestined, he also called; those he called, he also justified; those he justified, he also glorified.

How?

- The _____
- _____

3. Our _____. What are the right attitudes?

Romans 8:31 - What, then, shall we say in response to this?

A. To _____
Isaiah 43:1-2

B. To _____
Luke 22:42

C. To be _____
Philippians 4:6

D. To be _____
1 Thessalonians 5:18

E. To _____
Philippians 4:4

F. To have a _____