

***Life in the Spirit: God's Good Purpose, Part 1***  
***Romans 8:28-30***

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**Getting Started**

- ❖ How does this passage impact your perspective on the suffering moments you shared the last couple of weeks?
- ❖ **Opening Prayer Time:** This week, let's pray specifically for the children and youth of our church as they come to grips with losing key leaders in their lives.

**Digging Deeper**

- ❖ **Read and discuss Romans 8:28-29.**
  - What kind of "dots" can be connected between verses 26-27 and the fulfillment of verse 28? Do you see any intersection between the truth of the Holy Spirit's ministry and the promise of verse 28? How so?
  - Let's talk about "all things":
    - This passage says that God works "all things" for good, does this literally mean all things?
    - What types of "things" might you have a hard time believing are workable for good?
    - How does this relate to last week's thoughts on Romans 8:26 moments?
  - When verse 28 speaks of "all things work together for good".
    - What are some dangerous ways people interpret and apply the word "good"?
    - Based on the sermon, how was "good" explained? What do you think of that explanation? What do you resonate with and what may still create questions for you?
    - Discuss this point that Jerry made: "It is not our happiness but our holiness God is focused on. It is not our comfort but our Christ-likeness He is working out. It is not our success but our Spirit-filled life He most desires. It is not our material wealth but our mind for Christ that God rejoices over."
  - Consider and discuss the following statement: Our sovereign God orchestrates every event in life and works through them to glorify Christ and to benefit, either temporally or eternally, His children. Do you agree or disagree? What about this statement encourages/intrigues/motivates you? What about it mystifies you or causes concern?
- ❖ **Read and discuss Col. 1:17-19.** What is the significance of this verse in helping us understand the "good" God is working out? How does this help us interpret verse 28?

(Over)

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❖ **Applying this sermon to Our Lives:** Jerry provided 5 applications from the truth of verse 28. Which one or two of these resonates with you the most and why?

- Our sins and the sins of others are not the final verdict of our lives.
- The good God is working will not always feel good.
- Our heart's response to a circumstance, not the circumstance itself, determines the quality of our life.
- We don't need to live in fear of the future.
- Good things in our lives don't "just happen"--- they are the result of God's providential care.

**Think About It!**

*Essentially, it promises that nothing will touch our lives that is not under the control and direction of our loving heavenly Father. Everything we do and say, everything people do to us or say about us, every experience we will ever have—all are sovereignly used by God for our good. We will not always understand how the things we experience work to good, and we certainly will not always enjoy them. But we do know that nothing comes into our lives that God does not allow and use for his own beneficent purposes. Paul's overarching purpose in Romans 5-8 is to give us assurance for the life to come. But verses like 8:28 show that he also wants to give us assurance for the present life as well. God has ordained not only the ends but the means. (Douglas Moo)*

**Praying Together**

This week pray separate into sub-groups by gender. Do an accountability check-in with each other and pray for one another for those areas where we are spiritually struggling. Remember: What is said in the sub-group, stays in the sub-group!

(Note: In this year's study of Romans, our study questions are being inspired by or derived from books, commentaries and bible studies authored by: Pastors Matt Smith, Max Lucado, John MacArthur, R.C. Sproul, Jack Hayford and Tim Keller.)

## WORSHIP RESOURCE

February 23, 2020 | Transfiguration of the Lord

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### WORSHIP SONGS

#### MAY THE PEOPLES PRAISE YOU

**Words and Music Keith and Kristyn Getty, Stuart Townend, Ed Cash, and David Zimmer, 2016**

You have called us out of darkest night into Your glorious light.  
That we may sing the wonders of the risen Christ.  
May our every breath retell the grace that broke into our strife.  
With boundless love and deepest joy with endless life.

*May the peoples praise You, let the nations be glad. All Your blessing comes that we may praise, may praise the name of Jesus.*

All the earth is Yours and all within, each harvest is Your own.  
And from Your hand we give to You to make Christ known.  
May the seeds of mercy grow in us for those who have not heard.  
May songs of praise build lives of grace to spread Your Word.

This is our holy privilege to declare Your praises and Your Name.  
To every nation, tribe, and tongue, Your church proclaims.

Holy, holy is the Lord Almighty. Worthy, worthy is the Lamb  
who was slain. Holy, holy is the Lord Almighty.  
All creation praise Your glorious Name.

#### LAMB OF GOD

**Words by Jason Ingram, Andi Rozier, and Meredith Andrews, 2014**

You came from heaven's throne, acquainted with our sorrow,  
to trade the debt we owe—Your suffering for our freedom.

*The Lamb of God in my place. Your blood poured out,  
my sin erased. It was my death You died I am raised to life.  
Hallelujah the Lamb of God.*

My name upon Your heart. My shame upon Your shoulders.  
The power of sin undone. The cross for my salvation.

There is no greater love. There is no greater love.  
The Savior lifted up. There is no greater love.

#### HIS MERCY IS MORE

**Words and Music by Matt Papa and Matt Boswell, 2019**

What love could remember no wrongs we have done? Omniscient,  
all knowing, He counts not their sum. Thrown into a sea without  
bottom or shore, our sins, they are many, His mercy is more.

*Praise the Lord, His mercy is more. Stronger than darkness,  
new every morn. Our sins, they are many, His mercy is more.*

What patience would wait as we constantly roam? What Father,  
so tender, is calling us home? He welcomes the weakest, the vilest  
the poor. Our sins, they are many, His mercy is more.

What riches of kindness He lavished on us. His blood was the  
payment; His life was the cost. We stood 'neath a debt we could nev-  
er afford. Our sins, they are many, His mercy is more.

#### HE WILL HOLD ME FAST

**Words and Music by Ada Habershon (1861-1918)  
and Matthew Merker, 2013**

When I fear my faith will fail, Christ will hold me fast;  
when the tempter would prevail, He will hold me fast.  
I could never keep my hold through life's fearful path;  
For my love is often cold; He must hold me fast.

*He will hold me fast, He will hold me fast;  
For my Savior loves me so, He will hold me fast.*

Those He saves are His delight, Christ will hold me fast.  
Precious in His holy sight, He will hold me fast.  
He'll not let my soul be lost; His promises shall last;  
Bought by Him at such a cost, He will hold me fast.

For my life He bled and died, Christ will hold me fast;  
Justice has been satisfied; He will hold me fast.  
Raised with Him to endless life, He will hold me fast.  
Till our faith is turned to sight, when He comes at last!

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### DAILY READINGS | BOOK OF COMMON WORSHIP

SUNDAY | Ps. 103; Malachi 4:1-6; 2 Cor. 3:7-18; Luke 9:18-27

MONDAY | Ps. 5; Proverbs 27:1-12; Phil. 2:1-13; John 18:15-27

TUESDAY | Ps. 146; Proverbs 30:1-33; Phil. 3:1-11; John 18:28-38

WEDNESDAY | Ps. 51; Amos 5:6-15; Hebrews 12:1-14; Luke 18:9-14

THURSDAY | Ps. 27; Habakkuk 3:1-18; Phil. 3:12-21; John 17:1-8

FRIDAY | Ps. 22; Ezekiel 18:1-32; Philippians 4:1-9; John 17:9-19

SATURDAY | Ps. 43; Ezekiel 39:21-29; Phil. 4:10-20; John 17:20-26

### PRAYER OF CONFESSION | BOOK OF COMMON WORSHIP

God of compassion,  
in Jesus Christ you reveal the light of your glory,  
but we turn away, distracted by our own plans.  
We confess that we speak when we should listen,  
and act when we should wait.  
Forgive our aimless enthusiasms.  
Grant us wisdom to live in your light  
and to follow in the way of your beloved Son,  
Jesus Christ, our Lord and Savior. Amen.

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