**ECCLESIA CHURCH OF GOD IN CHRIST**

**Pastor Luther H. Holmes, Jr.**

**Bible Study Lesson**

**Wednesday, November 17, 2021**

**GOD WORKS**

 **ALL THINGS**

**TOGETHER FOR**

**YOUR GOOD**

**ONE VERSE THAT CAN CHANGE YOUR LIFE**

**ROMANS 8:28**

**28And we know that all things work together for good to them that love God, to them who are the called according to his purpose.**

In the July 2012 edition of the D Magazine, Michael J. Mooney wrote an article entitled “The Most Amazing Bowling Story Ever.”

It was January 18, 2010, when an amateur bowler, Bill Fong was just three rolls away from perfection. He had bowled three consecutive perfect games; a 900. In the history of bowling there have only been 21 perfect series. After rolling 33 consecutive strikes, Bill gathered his ball, walked up, and rolled another strike, and then he rolled another unframed 35. Needless to say, the crowd went wild. But something was wrong, 2 frames back Bill had begun sweating profusely; feeling dizzy, but he was just one roll away from history.

Bill pulled the ball to his chest, took his usual 5 steps, and released the ball perfectly. People actually started clapping before the ball reached the pins; that’s how perfect the roll was. It curved exactly where it was supposed to and made the exact contact with the pins. Pins flew, the crowd cheered, and the number 10 pin wobbled but settled back onto its base. His score, 899. One pin short of perfection. Heartbroken, Bill headed home. The dizziness that began on frame 34 had not improved. Bill staggered into his bathroom and threw up. The walls continued to spin and then he fell asleep. When he awoke the next morning, he realized he had suffered a stroke. Later in 2010 he had open heart surgery at just the age of 46. He survived despite his 70% chance that he wouldn’t. The doctors told him that the only thing that saved his life on the night of 899 was that the 10-pin stayed up. Had that last pin fallen, Bill’s doctor said his body, already in the midst of a stroke would have pushed his blood pressure even higher and that most likely would have killed him immediately. What he thought was the worst thing that could ever happen; the most awful thing after rolling 899 pins right, the last one didn’t fall right; he thought it was the worst thing that could have happen; but the worst thing that could have ever happened saved his life.

Paul has been describing the life of Christians on this side of heaven as one of groaning as we long to escape the suffering of this life and to be with our Father God in person (Romans 8:18–23). We wait in the sure hope of the day our bodies will be resurrected and we will share in God's glory (Romans 8:24–25).

What about all the hard things that come along while we are waiting? What if there was one passage of scripture that allows you to leave the past behind you, to look beyond your present challenges and provided a hope for a brighter tomorrow? Words that declare that you will never be abandoned, never alone; that you will always be cared for and a promise that you are called and chosen by God.

Paul seems to offer the promise in our key verse as a comfort for us.

**28And we know that all things work together for good to them that love God, to them who are the called according to his purpose.**

Sometimes the things we think are bad are only bad to us. God has a different perspective. All of us know that bad things happen to people. Some are because of national or international crisis like pandemics. Some bad things are because of bad decisions or bad conduct. Bad things happen. But if we listen tonight, we will discover that because of Romans 8:28, believers have a unique way of processing life when bad things happen to us.

Someone wrote, the truth of Romans 8:28 can change the way you think. It can provide a corresponding shift in your moods, emotions, and outlook. In time, it can actually transform your personality and alter your circumstances in life. It can turn troubled souls into people of confidence and good cheer. It’s the secret of resilience and irrepressible joy. This promise has your name on it, and it meets the challenges we’re facing right now. It’s God’s guarantee.

**Let’s look at**

**5 Transformational Truths from this Verse**

1. This is a **Definite** Promise – “And we know”
2. This is a **Divine** Promise – “That God Works”
3. This is a **Definitive** Promise – “He Works All Things”
4. This is a **Dynamic** Promise – “Together for Good”
5. This is a **Defined** Promise – “To Those Who Loved God and to Those who are the Called according to His Promise”

**LIFE APPLICATION**:

I am determined to trust God. Because Romans 8:28 is true we must be determined to trust God and not live-in fear.

**Isaiah 46:9-11.** **King James Version**

**9**Remember the former things of old: for I am God, and there is none else; I am God, and there is none like me,**10**Declaring the end from the beginning, and from ancient times the things that are not yet done, saying, My counsel shall stand, and I will do all my pleasure:**11**Calling a ravenous bird from the east, the man that executeth my counsel from a far country: yea, I have spoken it, I will also bring it to pass; I have purposed it, I will also do it.

In theory it is easy to understand Romans 8:28 but to get this into our bloodstream is another matter. It is one of those difficult tasks for the practicing believers. It’s not only believing in God but it’s believing God. God said this verse. There’s nothing that we can face today or in the future that can surprise God. He has already told us that all things are under his control. So, we must choose not to live my lives out of fear as to what bad thing might happen to use but out of faith as to what great thing could happen to us.

Outside of Romans 8:28 are a thousand substitutes for this promise and includes confusion and anxiety. But once you grasp the promise in Romans 8:28 everything changes. Stability, depth, and freedom….and when things come up in your life that wants to blow you over, you just say, all things work together for my good. I don’t understand it, but I believe it. Everything that happens to me is for my own good. If all things don’t please me, they always benefit me. This is the best promise.

This is a **Definite** Promise – “And we know”

This is a **Divine** Promise – “That God Works”

This is a **Definitive** Promise – “He Works All Things”

This is a **Dynamic** Promise – “Together for Good”

This is a **Defined** Promise – “To Those Who Loved God and to Those who are the Called according to His Promise”

Let’s read the verse out loud again!

**28And we know that all things work together for good to them that love God, to them who are the called according to his purpose.**

Study Resources:

The Greatest Promise in the Bible, Authored by Dr. D. Jeremiah
The Jeremiah Study Bible

\*Understanding the 66 Books of the Bible

 \*Basics of the Christian Faith