

RomansSession117
The Ultimate Security Part 1
The Infallible Guarantee of Glory 2

Romans 8:28 (NASB)

²⁸ 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.

Paul has been sharing in such a way that the Christians at Rome, could see clearly that their salvation and redemption has been secured by the Father, and by the Son, and by the Holy Spirit.

Last time we were together we were looking at the certainty, and the extent, of that security.

We talked about the certainty of the security, the fact that we know, and have knowledge that by God's own authority the Word tells us of that we are secure in Christ.

We also talked about the extent of that security, it reaches to everything that touches our lives. The extent is limitless. And God is the Guarantor.

This evening we want to continue that study, of the extent that the security covers us.

He is the source and His attributes continue to work for our good.

His strength supports us in our troubles and we are renewed day by day.

God is purifying and renewing our redeemed inner being in preparation for glorifications, the ultimate good.

We say that God causes all things to work for our good.

And by far the most significant and best of good things are God's own attributes.

His power works for us and strengthens us in our weaknesses.

But also, God's wisdom provides for our **good**.

The most direct way is by sharing His wisdom with us.

Paul prayed that the Lord would give the Ephesian Christians,

Ephesians 1:17b (NASB)

¹⁷ spirit of wisdom and of revelation in the knowledge of Him.

He made similar requests on behalf of the Colossians'

Colossians 1:9 (NASB)

⁹ For this reason also, since the day we heard of it, we have not ceased to pray for you and to ask that you may be filled with the knowledge of His will in all spiritual wisdom and understanding,

And later,

Colossians 3:16 (NASB)

¹⁶ Let the word of Christ richly dwell within you, with all wisdom teaching and admonishing one another with psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing with thankfulness in your hearts to God.

Almost by definition, God's *goodness* works to the **good** of His children.

Romans 2:4 (NASB)

⁴ Or do you think lightly of the riches of His kindness and tolerance and patience, not knowing that the kindness of God leads you to repentance?

God's faithfulness works for our good.

Even when His children are unfaithful to Him, their heavenly Father remains faithful to them.

Hosea 14:4 (NASB)

⁴ I will heal their apostasy, I will love them freely, For My anger has turned away from them.

Micah rejoiced in the Lord, exulting,

Micah 7:18 (NASB)

¹⁸ Who is a God like You, who pardons iniquity And passes over the rebellious act of the remnant of His possession? He does not retain His anger forever, Because He delights in unchanging love.

When a child of God is in need, the Lord promises,

Psalms 91:15 (NASB)

¹⁵ "He will call upon Me, and I will answer him; I will be with him in trouble; I will rescue him and honor him.

Philippians 4:19 (NASB)

¹⁹ And my God will supply all your needs according to His riches in glory in Christ Jesus.

God's Word is for our good.

Acts 20:32 (NASB)

³² "And now I commend you to God and to the word of His grace, which is able to build you up and to give you the inheritance among all those who are sanctified.

Every good thing we receive from God's hand;

1 Timothy 4:4-5 (NASB)

⁴ For everything created by God is good, and nothing is to be rejected if it is received with gratitude;

⁵ for it is sanctified by means of the word of God and prayer.

The more we see sin through the word of God and prayer, the more we abhor it.

In addition to His attributes, God's *holy angels* work for the **good** of those who belong to Him.

Hebrews 1:13-14 (NASB)

¹³ But to which of the angels has He ever said, "SIT AT MY RIGHT HAND, UNTIL I MAKE YOUR ENEMIES A FOOTSTOOL FOR YOUR FEET"?

¹⁴ Are they not all ministering spirits, sent out to render service for the sake of those who will inherit salvation?

God's children themselves are ministers of His **good** to each other.

In his opening letter to Rome, Paul humbly assured his readers that he longed to visit them not only to minister to them but to be ministered to by them.

Romans 1:12 (NASB)

¹² *that is, that I may be encouraged together with you while among you, each of us by the other's faith, both yours and mine.*

To the Corinthian believers the apostle described himself and Timothy as;

2 Corinthians 1:24a (NASB)

²⁴ *Not that we lord it over your faith, but are workers with you for your joy;*

It is both the obligation and the joy of Christians;

Hebrews 10:24 (NASB)

²⁴ *and let us consider how to stimulate one another to love and good deeds,*

Although the truth is often difficult to recognize and accept, the Lord causes even evil things to work for our good. It is these less obvious and less pleasant channel of God's blessing that Paul here seems to be emphasizing, those things among the "all things" that are in themselves anything but good.

Many of the things that we do and that happen to us are either outright evil or , at best, are worthless. Yet in His infinite wisdom and omnipotence, our heavenly father will turn even the worst of such things to our ultimate **good**.

As mentioned above, God used His people's slavery in Egypt and their trials in the wilderness not only to demonstrate His power against their enemies on their behalf but also to refine and purify His people before the took possession of the Promised Land.

Although the afflictions and hardships in the Sinai desert hardened the hearts of most of the people and made them rebellious, God intended those trials to be for their blessing.

When Daniel was threatened with death for refusing to obey King Darius's ban on worshiping any god but the king, the monarch reluctantly had the prophet thrown into the den of lions.

When it became evident that the lions would not harm him, Daniel testified to Darius;

Daniel 6:21-23 (NASB)

²¹ *Then Daniel spoke to the king, "O king, live forever!*

²² *"My God sent His angel and shut the lions' mouths and they have not harmed me, inasmuch as I was found innocent before Him; and also toward you, O king, I have committed no crime."*

²³ *Then the king was very pleased and gave orders for Daniel to be taken up out of the den. So Daniel was taken up out of the den and no injury whatever was found on him, because he had trusted in his God.*

The suffering and martyrdom of many of His Saints, however, is clear evidence that God doesn't always choose to bless faithfulness by deliverance from harm.

The evil things that God uses for the **good** of His people may be divided into three categories: suffering, temptation, and sin.

God uses the evil of suffering s a means of bringing good to His people.

Sometimes the suffering comes as the price of faithfulness to God.

At other times it is simply the common pain, hardship, disease, and conflicts that are the lot of all mankind because of sin's corruption of the world.

At other times the suffering comes by God's permission, and not always as punishment or discipline.

The Godly Naomi lamented,

Ruth 1:20 (NASB)

²⁰ *She said to them, "Do not call me Naomi; call me Mara (bitter) , for the Almighty has dealt very bitterly with me.*

After the bewildering afflictions with which God allowed him to be tormented by Satan, Job responded in simple trust:

Job 1:21 (NASB)

²¹ *He said, "Naked I came from my mother's womb, And naked I shall return there. The LORD gave and the LORD has taken away. Blessed be the name of the LORD."*

Often, of course, suffering does come as divine chastisement for sin.

God promised Judah that, despite the rebellion and idolatry that caused her captivity,

Jeremiah 24:5 (NASB)

⁵ *"Thus says the LORD God of Israel, 'Like these good figs, so I will regard as good the captives of Judah, whom I have sent out of this place into the land of the Chaldeans.*

God chastened certain members of the Corinthian Church because of their flagrant and unrepentant sins, causing some to become sick and others to die;

1 Corinthians 11:29-30 (NASB)

²⁹ *For he who eats and drinks, eats and drinks judgment to himself if he does not judge the body rightly.*

³⁰ *For this reason many among you are weak and sick, and a number sleep.*

Now we are not told what good God brought to those sinful believers themselves. Perhaps it was simply His means of preventing them from falling into worse sin.

It is likely that He worked good for the rest of the Corinthian Church as He had done in the instance of Ananias and Sapphira, whose severe discipline was a purifying force, causing:

Acts 5:11 (NASB)

¹¹ *And great fear came over the whole church, and over all who heard of these things.*

Regardless of what our adversities might be or how they might come, James admonishes us to ;

James 1:2-3 (NASB)

² *Consider it all joy, my brethren, when you encounter various trials,*

³ *knowing that the testing of your faith produces endurance.*

Trials that come directly because of our relationship to Christ should be especially welcomed, Peter says;

1 Peter 1:7 (NASB)

⁷ so that the proof of your faith, being more precious than gold which is perishable, even though tested by fire, may be found to result in praise and glory and honor at the revelation of Jesus Christ;

Joseph is a classic Old Testament example of God's using unjust suffering to bring great **good** not only to the sufferer himself but to all of his family, who constituted God's chosen people.

If he has never been sold into slavery and cast into prison, he would not have had the opportunity to interpret Pharaoh's dream and rise to a position of great prominence, from which he could be used to save Egypt and his own people from starvation.

Understanding that marvelous truth, Joseph told his fearful brothers;

Genesis 50:20 (NASB)

²⁰ "As for you, you meant evil against me, but God meant it for good in order to bring about this present result, to preserve many people alive.

We will continue this next time.