

“God’s Providential Care”

Romans 8:28

Pastor John Miller

I. Introduction

- A. Romans 8:28 is one of the greatest verses in all the Bible!
 - 1. It contains a promise that has been called “a soft pillow for troubled hearts.”
 - 2. As a child of God, we not only have a new hope and a new help, but we also have a new knowledge.
 - a) “And we know” (v.28)
 - b) “The sufferings of the present time” (v.18)
 - c) “Being confident of this very thing that He which has begun a good work in you will perform it until the Day of Jesus Christ” (Philippians 1:6).
- B. I want to give you five facts about God’s providential care found in Romans 8:28.

II. The Certainty of His Care

- A. “And we know” (v.28)
 - 1. This is the believer’s blessed assurance.
 - 2. This is not just Paul’s opinion. It is God’s Word.
 - a) “We see not” (v.25)
 - b) Contrast with “we know not” (v.26)
 - c) Illustration- Jesus said to Peter, “What I do” (John 13)
 - 3. But we do know!
 - a) Not “see” or “feel”
 - 4. How do you know?
 - a) “By faith” (not by sight)
 - b) We must take God at His Word.
 - c) The focus of the text is on God.
 - 1) God’s person
 - 2) God’s promises
 - 3) God’s power
 - d) “I know not where His islands lift; Their fronded palms in air; I only know I cannot drift beyond His Love and care.”

III. The Extent of His Care

- A. “All things” (v.28)
 - 1. What does “all things” mean?
 - a) All things. No qualifications or limits.

2. Every event of our life, good or bad, is under His loving, beneficent, sovereign control.
 - a) Illustration- “The sufferings” (v.17-18)
 - 1) Also, “the groaning’s” (v.23)
 - 2) Disappointments, bereavement, illness, children who cause pain, loss of wealth or health, lack of fruit in Christian service
 - b) Illustration- Jesus said, “Look at the birds...look at the flowers” (Matthew 6)
3. So, remember “all things”
 - a) “In everything give thanks: for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus concerning you” (1 Thessalonians 5:18).

IV. The Harmony of His Care

- A. “Work together” (v.28)
 1. It’s God who is working.
 2. “*We know that God intermingles all things for good for them that love Him.*”—William Barclay
 3. Things by themselves are not always good.
 - a) But God works them together for good
 1. Illustration- Baking a cake
 - b) God is working continuously, purposefully, and lovingly.
 - c) Trust Him, for He cares for you!

V. The Results of His Care

- A. “For good” (v.28)
 1. God is working “for our good” and “for His glory.”
 2. What is the “good” God is working in my life?
 - a) God is working to make you like Jesus.
 - b) “*Every adverse experience when rightly received can carry its quota of good. Bodily pain and weakness cause us to feel our frailty. Perplexity reveals our lack of wisdom. Financial reverses point up how limited are our resources. Mistakes and failure humble our pride. All these things can be included in the term “good.”*— J. Oswald Sanders
 - c) Illustration- Paul’s thorn in the flesh (2 Corinthians 12)

VI. The Objects of His Care

- A. “...them that love God, to them who are called according to His purpose” (v.28)
 1. The text does not say “all things work for good.”
- B. It is them that “love God”
 1. It’s our part to love God.

2. “And thou shalt love the Lord your God with all thine heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy might” (Deuteronomy 6:5).
 3. We love Him because He first loved us.
- C. They are “called according to His purpose”
1. This is God’s part. He called us by His love and grace.
 2. It’s Christians. His purpose. (v.30)
 3. Illustration- (Psalm 73)

VII. Conclusion

A. “We know”

1. Because God has promised it in His Word
2. Illustration- In the Bible
 - a) Jacob
 - 1) Joseph was gone; Reuben was disgraced; Judah was dishonored; Simeon and Levi had broken his heart; Dinah was defiled; Simeon, even now, was in prison; beloved Rachel was dead; famine threatened the family. Then came the demand from Egypt that young Benjamin must appear there before its awesome governor before any further supplies would be released. Old Jacob wept: “Me have ye bereaved of my children: Joseph is not, and Simeon is not, and ye will take Benjamin away: “all these things are against me” (Genesis 42:36).
 - b) Joseph
 - 1) “Ye meant it for evil, but God used it for good.”
 - 2) Job
 - c) Jesus
 - 1) The cross!