



**All to the
good ...!**

Text: Romans 8:18-30

Focal part: Romans 8:28 (NIV)

Our earthly existence consists of two parts: the "not yet" and the "already". The "not yet" tells of "suffering" (vs 18) and "disappointment", the brokenness and mortality, the meaninglessness (vs 23) of the earthly existence.

The "already" tells of the security that believers have within this broken existence. The "not yet" makes us sigh ... and hanker for relief (vs 23-24)! The "already" makes us shout for joy because of sureness and expectation ... and in anticipation!

It is within this context that Romans 8:28 shouts for joy: We know that in all things God works for the good of those who love him, who have been called according to his purpose. It is with this promise of God that the faithful succeed to keep on living amidst the sighs (prayers) because of the "not yet"! It is however no amplification for anyone who wishes for some or other mundane desire to materialise for her/his own life. It is a promise to those who love God Almighty. It is an assurance for the faithful who live in loyalty and commitment – unconditional surrender – towards the Lord. It is meant for those people who are in search of a whole life in Jesus Christ. The One who has reconciled us once again with our Heavenly

Father. It is built upon a relationship of love between a child and his/her Father which fills the child with full confidence that the father takes care of all things, also the unfortunate, and that all will be to the good of his child. Only they will "know that God works for the good ..."

We should not restrict this "all to the good" to the boundaries of human expectations, abilities and desires. God's "to the good" of us entails more and is bigger than our own dreams. For you "to the good" entails the full realisation of God's covenant of grace in your life, which will ultimately result in the sharing in the glory of God (vs 30)!

And, according to verse 30, this glory has already been shared by you, although it still lies in the future! Such is the certainty thereof! What a blissful way to live in the "not yet" dispensation. Suffering cannot stop God's covenant of grace in your life ... it can rather indeed strengthen it!



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