

“VICTORIOUS OVER SADNESS”

Text: Romans 8:28-32

Subject: “Victory Over Sadness”

Introduction

In verses 1-4, “**Victorious Over Sin**” (or)

- ◆ How believers are free from all condemnation.
- ◆ How believers are free from the law of sin’s power.
- ◆ How believers are free to obey the impulses of the Holy Spirit.

In verses 5-17, “**Victorious Over Self**” (or)

- ◆ How believers have been quickened by the Holy Spirit.
- ◆ How believers are able to mortify the deeds of the flesh.
- ◆ How believers have access to God in prayer.

In verses 18-27, “**Victorious Over Suffering**” (or)

- ◆ How our present sufferings are nothing in comparison to the glory that awaits us.
- ◆ How hope enables us to be patient with people and problems that could drain us.
- ◆ How the Holy Spirit helps us in our infirmities and enables us to pray (even in our weakness)

Today “Victory Over Sadness”

Question: How many of you have ever had an hour or a day of sadness?

Question: How many of you have ever had your heart broken by someone or something?

Question: How many of you have ever wished that time would hurry and that your pain would be a distant memory?

Question: How many of you have ever quoted Romans 8:28 at sometime in your life?

“And we know that all things work together for good to them that love God, to them who are the called according to His purpose”.

Question: How can we know that all things work together for good?

Question: What does it mean, that all things work together for good?

Question: How does God use all things in your life to work together for Good?

Question: What is the ultimate good that God produces in your all things?

Question: How does Romans 8:28 conquer every sadness in your life and mine?

(Divine Resources That Overcome All Sadness)

I. **Resource #1 Is a “Promise”**

Question: What is the promise from God to you?

Answer: (v. 28) “And we know (know what?) that all things work together for good to them that love God, to them who are the called according to His purpose”.

#1. **This is a promise of assurance:**

“And we know” (means:)

- ◆ We don’t **hope** so,
- ◆ We don’t **think** so,
- ◆ We don’t say “**maybe** so”,
- ◆ We don’t **wish upon a star**,

(But we are guaranteed of something)

Question: What is the guarantee? **Answer:** “And we know that **all things**”

Question: How many things? **Answer:** “All things”

- ◆ God is not only ruler over the world’s events,

◆ But God is ruling (and in control) over all the events that occur in the life of the believer.

“And we know that all things” is a promise of assurance.

#2. This is a promise of continuation:

“And we know that all things (what?) “Work together”:

Question: Pastor, what does it mean that all things “work together”?

Answer: The words “work together” come from the Greek word (SUNERGIE) which means:

- | | | |
|------------------|------------------|--------------|
| ◆ To create | ◆ To eliminate | ◆ To place |
| ◆ To replace | ◆ To connect | ◆ To group |
| ◆ To interrelate | ◆ To intermingle | ◆ To shape |
| ◆ To forge | ◆ To press | ◆ To stretch |
| ◆ To move | ◆ To operate | ◆ To control |
| ◆ To guide | ◆ To influence | ◆ To arrange |

Fact: The words “work together” are also in the present action tense which means all things “are continually” working together for good. **(In Other Words)**

◆ God is not only in charge of all things, but He is also arranging and re-arranging all things for your good.

Ask: Ever have God place someone or something in your life?

Ask: Ever have God replace something else in your life?

Ask: Ever have God eliminate something in your life?

Ask: Ever have God stretch you with something else in your life?

Ask: Ever say to God “Enough stretching Lord, please”?

Ask: Ever ask God “How can this event in my life be continually working for my good”?

Ask: Ever question God’s wisdom with certain people or things outside of your control?

(Verse 28) is a promise of **assurance!**

(Verse 28) is a promise of **continuation!**

#3. This is a promise of blessing:

“And we know that all things work together (for what?) **for good**”

◆ The word “good” comes from the Greek word (AGATHON) which means:) “**The ultimate good**”

◆ It is a promise of blessing for believers. **(In Other Words)**

- ◆ You can’t see the future at all.
- ◆ You can’t take one single event and see all the lines that run from it.
- ◆ You can’t see all the things that result from any one event (but God does!) **(That’s Why)**
- ◆ God is so good – because God takes all the events of our lives and works them out for our ultimate good!

Illustration

A Chinese gentleman lived on the border of China and Mongolia. In those days, there was constant conflict and strife along the perimeter. The man had a beautiful horse. One day she leaped over the corral, raced down the road, crossed the border, and was captured by the Mongolians. His friends came to comfort him “That’s bad news” they said sadly.

“What makes you think it’s bad news?” asked the Chinese gentleman. “Maybe it’s good news.” A few days later the mare came bolting into his corral, bringing with it a massive stallion. His friends crowded around. “That’s good news!” they cried. “What makes you think it’s good news?” he asked. “Maybe it is bad news.” Later his son, while riding the stallion and trying to break it, was thrown off and broke his leg. “That’s bad news,” cried the friends. “What makes you think it is bad news?” asked the Chinese gentleman. “Maybe it’s good news.” One week later, war broke out with Mongolia, and a Chinese general came through, drafting all the young men. All later perished, except for the young man who couldn’t go because his leg was broken. The man said to his friends, “You see, the things you thought were bad turned out good; and the things you thought were good turned out bad.”

- ◆ I Corinthians 13:12 says “Now we see through a glass darkly”
- ◆ In Genesis 50:20, Joseph declares, “You thought to do me evil, but God worked it out for my good”.
- ◆ Moses said in Deuteronomy 23:5, “God turned the curse into a blessing because He loves you”.

#4. Romans 8:28 is a promise of condition:

“And we know that all things work together for good (to whom?)...to them that love God”

Question: What is the limitation on Romans 8:28?

Answer: God works all things out for the ultimate good only to those who love God and are committed to His purpose for their lives. (Repeat).

- ◆ “To those who love God” is emphatic,
- ◆ It means that God only looks after the “all things” for the person who loves Him supremely.

(In Other Words)

- ◆ If a person doesn’t place their life into the hands of God, how can God take care of them?
- ◆ If a person walks away from God, how can God look after them?

(In Other Words)

- ◆ God doesn’t force His will and care upon anyone of us.
- ◆ He has no mechanical robots with forced behavior.
- ◆ Love can only flow from a heart that chooses to love God.

(It’s An Either Or)

- ◆ We either turn our lives over to the Lord in love (or we continue to take our lives into our own hands).

II. Resource #2 Is A “Process”

Question: Why has God given us such a wonderful promise in (v. 28)? Why?

Answer: So that He can fulfill His purpose in your life and mine.

Question: What is God’s will and purpose for every one of us?

Answer: (V. 29) “For whom He did foreknow, he also did predestinate to be (what?) to be conformed to the image of His Son”

Question: What is God doing with every person, place and thing that touches your life?

Answer: He is using them all to conform you and me to the image of His Son!

(Is It That Important To God?)

- ◆ The word “predestinate” comes from the Greek word (PROORISEN) which means “To destine and appoint beforehand”.

(It Means:)

- ◆ You and I have a destiny from God.
- ◆ We are the object of God's attention for a divine purpose (and process).

Question: Why is God working all things together for good in your life?

Answer: So that you and I can be "Conformed into the image of Jesus".

Question: What does it mean to be conformed?

Answer: The Greek word for "conformed" is (SUMMORPHOUS) which means to possess the same likeness as Jesus.

- ◆ It means God has a destiny for your life and mine. (Christ-likeness!)
- ◆ It means nothing can stop this process when you and God are in cooperation together!
- ◆ It means God will use the "all things" in your life to conform you into the image of your destiny. (Jesus)

Resource #1 – We have a "Promise"

Resource #2 – We have a "Process and a Destiny"

III. Resource #3 Is A "Provision:"

Question: How do we know that we can reach our destiny in Jesus?

Answer: Because of (verse 32): "He that spared not His own Son, but delivered Him up for us all, how shall He not with Him also freely give us all things?"

(In Other Words)

- ◆ If God gave us His Son, which is the greatest gift, surely He will take care of the lesser things!

(Verse 32 Speaks of Provision)

#1. **God's provision is spiritual** (Ephesians 1:3)

"Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who hath blessed us with all spiritual blessings in heavenly places in Christ".

#2. **God's provision is material** (Philippians 4:19)

"But my God shall supply all your need according to His riches in glory by Christ Jesus".

#3. **God's provision is eternal** (John 3:16)

"For God so loved you and me, that He gave His only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in Him should not perish but have everlasting life".

#4. **God's provision is receivable now:**

"My Grace is sufficient for you, for my strength is made perfect in weakness" (II Cor. 12:9)

"For it is God which worketh in you both to will and to do of His good pleasure" (Phil. 2:13)

"But thou O Lord art a shield for me, my glory and the lifter up of my head" (Psalm 3:3)

"Even to your old age and your gray hair will I carry you" (Isaiah 46:4)

"The eternal God is your refuge and underneath of you are His everlasting arms". (Deut. 33:27)

Altar Call

AMEN!

Bill Kirk, Pastor