



SUFFERING AND EVIL

ROMANS 8:28-39 * MAY 21, 2023

THE GOOD, THE BAD, AND THE UGLY

ROMANS 8:27-28

- 1 We can express gratitude and _____ in knowing that even the routine good things in life are from God.
- 2 Even when life “goes wrong” we don’t have to battle _____ or anxiety — “in all things God works.”
- 3 We can have confidence in that we cannot _____ God’s good purposes for us. (PHILIPPIANS 1:6)

THE GOOD THAT IS GOD’S PURPOSE

ROMANS 8:29-39

The “good” God always is working for us is _____ change — to be conformed to the _____ of Jesus.

The purpose for Paul’s questions is to almost _____ of us our disbelief that we are totally saved by grace — therefore we are free to face life _____.

HARD TRUTHS OF SUFFERING

- 1 Suffering is the result of _____.
- 2 We were _____ to make much of Him.
- 3 God’s ways are not _____.
- 4 God’s definition of “_____” is different than ours.
- 5 I’m not a qualified judge of _____ or _____.
- 6 Our suffering is _____.

SCRIPTURE FOR FURTHER STUDY

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| 1 JAMES 1:15 | 4 PHILIPPIANS 1:21-23 |
| 2 ISAIAH 43:7, 21 | 5 JOB 38 |
| 3 ISAIAH 55:8-9 | 6 JAMES 4:14 |

LIFE GROUP DISCUSSION:

1. When you think of life beyond the grave, what comes to mind? How does the hope of future glory encourage you when you are suffering?
2. Read Romans 8:28-30. What is God’s good purpose for us? How do words such as foreknew, predestined, called, justified and glorified help us to understand how God accomplishes his purpose for us?
3. How might God’s definition of “good” sometimes conflict with ours?
4. Can anything thwart God’s plans? What should be your response to stressful circumstances that are beyond your control?
5. Read Romans 8:31-39. How would you describe the mood of these verses? How can we know with absolute certainty that God is “for us”(verses 31-32)? If God is for us, what are the implications?
6. What guarantee do we have that God will fulfill his promises to us (see verses 31-34)? Notice the dangers Paul says we face in this life in verses 35-39. When have dangers and problems caused you to question God’s love?
7. With all the help God makes available, why do we still struggle? What undermines our confidence in God’s promises and keeps us from trusting fully in him?