

Sunday Morning, February 25, 2018  
All Things for Good  
Romans 8:28

- I. All Things Is a *Big* Promise
  - A. God's Plan Covers All Things  
Ps. 135:6; Amos 3:6; Jer. 10:23
  - B. God's Plan Covers Sinful Things  
Gen. 45:5–9; Ac. 2:23; Ac. 4:27, 28; Rev. 13:8
  - C. God's Plan Covers Future Things  
Rev. 1:1; Ps. 33:11; Gen. 41:32; Job 23:13; Dan 4:32, 35
  - D. God's Plan Covers All the Details of Things  
Matt. 10:29; Ps. 139:16; WSC 7
- II. All Things Is a Restricted Promise
  - A. This Promise Is for Those Who Love Him  
Ps. 73:24–25; Ps. 139:18; Ps. 84:2; 1 Jn. 2:15; Jn. 21:15–17; Jn. 14:21
  - B. This Promise Is for Those Who Are the Called According to His Purpose  
1 Cor 1:24; Jude 1; Eph. 1:11; 2 Tim. 1:9;
- III. All Things Is a Comforting Promise
  - A. This Does Not Mean Necessarily All Will Be Easy or Happy
  - B. This Means All Is under God's Control
  - C. This Means All Will Work for Good
    - 1. Will Be for My Good Matt. 10:39
    - 2. Will Be for God's Good, His Glory  
1 Cor. 10:31; Rom. 8:18; Matt. 26:39

*QUOTES*

“The God who created, names and numbers the stars in the heavens also numbers the stars of my head. He pays attention to very big things and to very small ones. What matters to me matters to Him, and that changes my life.” (Elisabeth Elliot)

“Over every detail in this world, Christ reigns. His ‘sovereignty is but another name for the unlimited exercise of wisdom and goodness.’ Nothing hinders his wisdom and goodness. Every drop of rain hits its appointed target, and every dust particle is carried by the wind to its appointed resting place. If we would but grasp this in the depth of our being, our souls would be liberated to depend fully on God’s governance over our lives, and to learn to count trials ‘all joy’” (John Newton on the Christian Life)

“One of the most difficult things to do when the road is rough or when the billows are passing over us is to feel that God still loves us. It is the last thing we can accept. But we are not called to feel; we are called to believe. . . We are to measure God’s love not by His providence but by His promise.” (John Murray)

“When adversity comes into our lives we tend to react in one of two ways. We may say that it is from a source other than God and He has no power to stop it; or we may say it is an evidence of God’s anger against us. Either way we are guilty of casting aspersions on the character of our Father and consequently of perverting our attitude to Him” (John Murray)

“The experiences of my life are not such I could infer from them that God is good, gracious and merciful necessarily. To have had one husband murdered and another one disintegrate, body, soul and spirit, through cancer, is not what you would call a proof of the love of God. In fact, there are many times when it looks like just the opposite.”

“My belief in the love of God is not by inference or instinct, it is by faith. To apprehend God’s sovereignty working in that love is—we must say it—the last and highest victory of the faith that overcomes the world.”

“I believe with all my heart God’s Story has a happy ending. . . But not yet, not necessarily yet. It takes faith to hold on to that in the face of the great burden of experience, which seems to prove otherwise.” (Elisabeth Elliot)

“God’s providence is his almighty and ever present power whereby, *as with his hand*, he still upholds heaven and earth and all creatures and so governs them that leaf and blade, rain and drought, fruitful and barren years, food and drink, health and sickness, riches and poverty, indeed, all things, come to us not by chance *but by his fatherly hand*’ (Heidelberg Catechism 27)

"There is no attribute more comforting to His children than that of God's Sovereignty. Under the most adverse circumstances, in the most severe trials, they believe that Sovereignty has ordained their afflictions, that Sovereignty overrules them, and that Sovereignty will sanctify them all. There is nothing for which the children ought more earnestly to contend than the doctrine of their Maker over all creation - the Kingship of God over all the works of His own hands - the Throne of God and His right to sit upon that Throne." (Charles Spurgeon)

“Not one detail works ultimately for evil to the people of God; in the end only good will be their lot.” (John Murray)

"Every trial small or great, I will look upon it at once as a messenger of God's love. If you thus meet it, whether it comes through men or yourself, or more directly from above, as God's appointment, you are in the right attitude for bearing and being blessed by it." (Andrew Murray)

“Everything is needful that he sends; nothing can be needful that he withholds.” (John Newton)

Not till the loom is silent  
And the shuttles cease to fly  
Shall God unroll the canvas  
And explain the reason why.

The dark threads are as needful  
In the weaver’s skillful hand  
As the threads of gold and silver  
In the pattern he has planned.