



DISCUSSION GUIDE

Lost in Translation – Part 3

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Main Idea – In life you will experience good things and bad things. Because God is perfect, nothing that happens is wasted. If you have given your life to God, everything will work together for good, and you will become more like Jesus in how you live your life.

Take the time to verify what is written in the Bible

- The Bible is occasionally misquoted or misunderstood.
- Believers sometimes trust what is said by someone else. That is not always wise to do.
- With digital technology, it is now easier than ever to research Scripture and discover for yourself what is taught. That discovery process can then be enhanced by learning more from good teachers.

For God's chosen, everything works together for good

- **Romans 8:28 – And we know that all things work together for good to those who love God, to those who are called according to His purpose.(NKJV)**
- Not everything that happens is good. But, the Bible tells us that even bad things, working together with other things, result in good. There is a special “chemistry of the cross” that finds God combining all things for a good outcome.
- Based on what we see before us in the world, this is a promise that is beyond our understanding. **1 Corinthians 3:19a – “For the wisdom of this world is foolishness with God”**
- Because Jesus was victorious over sin, you have victory over your circumstances.
- Give to God all things in your life: the good and the bad. Let Him work it. Don't try to figure out the meaning of everything yourself.

1. Romans 8:28 gives us certainty

- **“And we know”** conveys certainty. This is in the Word of God. He said it. It is sure.
- Your hardships do not imply God does not care about you.
- Rather, in fact, your hardships are evidence you are a child of God.

Romans 8: 16-17 – The Spirit Himself bears witness with our spirit that we are children of God, and if children, then heirs – heirs of God and joint heirs

with Christ, if indeed we suffer with Him, that we may also be glorified together. (NKJV)

2. Romans 8:28 refers to the completeness of life

- **“that all things”** conveys completeness.
- The completeness of life includes some bad things. Bad things are part of the experience.
- We learn from affliction. Somehow, pain alerts us so we can receive and understand new information to better understand the meaning of everything.
- Hardship that leads to blessings is evident from the earliest parts of the Bible. **Genesis 50: 19-20 – Joseph said to them, “Do not be afraid, for am I in the place of God? But as for you, you meant evil against me; but God meant it for good, in order to bring it about as it is this day, to save many people alive. (NKJV)**
- Joseph was an example of someone who experienced many hardships only to find that those events made him more skilled and effective, and led to blessings for the entire family of God.
- The Bible tells you to welcome challenges and tests because they qualify you for a higher calling. **James 1: 2-4 – My brethren, count it all joy when you fall into various trials, knowing that the testing of your faith produces patience. But let patience have its perfect work, that you may be perfect and complete, lacking nothing. (NKJV)**

3. Romans 8:28 tells us that things are working together

- **“work together”** is from the Greek word “synergeo”. Synergeo means “to be a partner in labor, to put forth power together.”
- God’s work on earth is ongoing; it never pauses.
- God is timeless. His work is constantly renewing.
- Be patient. Let God do His work. He has promised to be faithful to complete what He is doing. **Philippians 1:6 – being confident of this very thing, that He who has begun a good work in you will complete it until the day of Jesus Christ.**

4. Romans 8:28 tells us everything is working for good

- **“for good”** is the condition in which everything is working.
- God is good. He works all things in His condition of His goodness, for goodness.

5. Romans 8:28 tells us everything is working toward God’s purpose

- **“for those who love God and are called according to His purpose”** is the conclusion of the matter.

- Those who love God are called for His purposes.
- When we are working for God's purposes, good results happen in the end.

God's purpose is for you to become like Jesus

- Whatever your circumstance, God has made a promise He is working things so you can become more and more like Jesus.
- Everything in your life – all the good and bad – are working together so you, through the Holy Spirit, will share the mindset and consciousness of Jesus.
- **Romans 8: 29 – For whom He foreknew, He also predestined to be conformed to the image of His Son, that He might be the firstborn among many brethren.**

Reflective Questions for Lost in Translation – Part 3

1. Think back on something bad that happened to you. What were you able to learn from it? How has that lesson helped you? What good would you say came from it?
2. How might you use Romans 8:28 to comfort someone who is undergoing a trial or crisis right now? Why is acknowledging that bad things are bad – and not by themselves any good – necessary for understanding and accepting this verse?
3. How does all of this enable you to become more like Jesus?