

It's All Good!

Romans 8:14-18; 28-39

I love the Word of God and the way it is written. I have come to realize God is very deliberate in the words he uses in scripture. He does not use language haphazardly but he carefully chooses each word to convey the message He wants to send to his people.

Read Verses 14-15

Do you know what it means to be adopted into the body of Christ? Just think for a moment what that really means. Well, what does it mean in the natural to be adopted? Usually when a child's biological parents no longer want or feel they can handle or take care of a child, they give the child up or away to an agency, if you will, to be placed with another parent or family. All rights are signed over to the new parent(s) via a binding agreement and the child goes to live with the new parent(s). Now this child who was once rejected, was once ostracized, and in some cases, was once left for dead, has a new chance at life, has gained stability, has a new-found love (real love shown and felt). This same child now has access to whatever his/her adoptive parents have. This child may have adoptive siblings, but he/she has the same rights as they do (as if they were related by blood).

We, as believers, have been adopted into **the** family, the family of God who is our Father. We are his heirs with access and rights to an inheritance, joint-heirs with our elder brother Jesus Christ--the greatest inheritance being eternal life. So, it's all good! You may have been rejected by your parents, by your so-called friends, but you were adopted. That man may have left you high and dry, took advantage of you, used and abused you, manipulated and confused you, but you've been adopted. Man may have tossed you aside, put you away, but it's all good. They say one man's trash is another man's treasure. Well, my bible tells me we have this treasure in earthen vessels that the excellency of the power may be of God and not of us. **(2 Cor. 4:7)** I know I may not look like much to you. I know I have some issues, many, many issues, but I have treasure! I may not talk like you, act like you, do things in the same way as you, but I have treasure!

We were selected, chosen. I often hear the word when preached through my Pastor, "I chose you, before the foundation of the world. You did not choose me." In the natural, the prospective parents go to select/choose the child they would like to adopt, to call their own. They normally look for the young children, the babies. In the natural, if you're a certain age, you are less likely to be adopted. But aren't we glad, it didn't matter the age we accepted Christ as our Savior. God adopts all ages, from the young to the old.

Now, we know what real love looks like. Now, we know what real love feels like. It's all good! God is love. Not sleeping with a man who is not my husband. That's not love, that's lust. Because if the relationship is really based on love, both of you can and will wait until you're married. If it's really love, you'll both love God enough to honor him by keeping your temples pure and holy before him, by putting God ahead of your fleshly desires.

Well, not only do we have access and rights as heirs and joint-heirs to the blessings here while on earth as well as on the other side, what else comes along with this adoption? We're going somewhere. Stay with me.

Read Verse 17 (placing emphasis on clause b)

We know our Lord Jesus suffered. We were not there but we believe what the Word says about it. He suffered physically, mentally, emotionally and spiritually.

- Physically-pierced in his side, beatings, scourging, nailed his hands and feet to a cross
- Mentally-mental anguish he endured for our sakes
- Emotionally-he cried out let this cup pass from me; but nevertheless, not my will but let your will be done
- Spiritually-had to be separated from God the Father

We must suffer with him. We must face our own trials and tribulations. Now, if we say that we are joint-heirs with Christ, then we can't only share in what we may *deem* good and shun what is "seemingly" bad. Salvation is free but the anointing costs. Are you willing to pay the price? You may have to walk alone for a season. You may have to be misunderstood for some seasons. You may have to be humiliated and embarrassed from time to time. You may even have to do without for a season. Are you willing to pay the price? You may have to be persecuted and endure all manner of evil spoken against you falsely. Are you willing to pay the price? **Can you** pay the price? Can you endure hardness as a good soldier as the scripture commands us? I'm here to tell you, Yes, We Can! How do I know this without a shadow of a doubt—because It's All Good! (What the enemy means for my bad, God means it for my good. How many of you know that there are two purposes that oppose one another? The devil comes to steal, kill and destroy. But Jesus came that we might have life and have it more abundantly.)

Read Verse 18

Paul is saying what I'm going through right now does not even compare to my future, my destiny. It's like mixing apples and oranges. It's not the same. One is up here and the other is down there. He's not making light of what you're going through, what you're facing in life and neither am I. But what he's wanting to do is to get us to see the bigger picture. To get us to see past the natural, to lean not to our own understanding, but see this thing in the Spirit. To see God is working behind the scenes, orchestrating the events in our lives, allowing things to occur in our lives for his sovereign reasons. God is sovereign. He is in control. There will be glory after this. God will get his glory! Eyes have not seen, ears have not heard, neither has it entered into the heart of man, the things which God hath prepared for them that love him.

Read 2 Cor. 4:17

For our light affliction, which is but for a moment, worketh for us (it's working for us) a far more exceeding and eternal weight of glory. It's all good!

Let's go back and dissect **verse 18** because it is powerful. What does it mean to reckon? To take into consideration. When Paul considers his suffering, it can't compare to the glory. In the preceding verses, it was already presented to us that we are the Sons of God, received the Spirit of adoption, we have a Father, we are heirs of God and joint-heirs with Christ and if I suffer with him, I will be glorified with him. Paul is saying how can my sufferings (his light affliction as he calls it) compare with that. How can my

affliction/sufferings of this present time (that only last for a moment anyway) compare with the fact I will be with my Lord and Savior for all eternity? Read **2 Cor. 11:23-27** for a description of Paul's *light affliction*. Lord, have mercy! Our woes pale in comparison. What I also see here is Paul is not focusing on his suffering (his problems) but his focus is on the glory. He's not allowing himself to be distracted by his present circumstances. But despite his present conditions, he still has hope. He still has the ability to exercise his faith. In **Philippians 4:12**, Paul said "I know both how to be abased, and I know how to abound: every where and in all things I am instructed both to be full and to be hungry, both to abound and to suffer need. Paul basically said he had learned how to be content in whatever state he found himself.

Read Verse 28

Here's another powerful verse worth dissecting. I draw so much strength from this one verse alone in my Christian walk. All things, not some things, not a few things, not a couple of things, all things "what"—work **together**. How do we know? Well, we were just told back in **verse 18** For I take into consideration (reckon) that the sufferings of this present time are not worthy to be compared with the glory which shall be revealed in us. Therefore, we know from the Word of God, but we also know from past experiences. Think on those times in your life when you thought you wouldn't make it, when you thought you were going to lose your mind, when you thought you were cursed but God turned things around. Rather than being a curse, that situation proved to be one of your biggest blessings. While we're going through a thing, we can't always see or don't always recognize God's hand at work. But when we come through it, we begin to look back and see how God knew best. I often hear one of our associate ministers say, "we don't need a miracle, only a memory". How God kept you from entering that relationship. How he kept you from marrying that man. How he kept you from settling for less than God's best. How he preserved your mind in the midst of your struggles, showing to you that you were stronger than even you realized. Oh, maybe I'm just talking about me. Proving to you that God is your strength and power as spoken in **2 Samuel Chapter 22**. We'll revisit past experiences at the end.

David said, "It was good for me that I have been afflicted that I might learn thy statutes" (**Psalm 119:71**) We learn from our afflictions. We learn from our mistakes. We even learn from our failures (or at least we should learn from them). Some of us (like myself) have the tendency to be hard-headed and must repeat a class. It's like repeating a grade in school. You don't want to be there but it is a must! We can't be promoted until we pass the class. God loves us just that much to not allow us to just slide by without gaining what He intended. Whenever God signs us up for a class, it is so we can learn something--learn something about him, learn something about ourselves or learn something about life in general. Whatever the lesson, just make sure you learn something from it. God takes our successes and our failures, our trials and our triumphs and weaves it together as the fabric of our lives. There is no such thing as a wasted experience. I'm a firm believer of that. Well, you might say to yourself, how can God possibly use this, how is this going to fit into my ministry, into God's plan for my life—but it will somehow, whether as a testimony, personal strength, whatever the case might be, it shall be used. God can and will turn your test into a testimony. God is not allowing you to go through certain things, certain situations for nothing. He is not toying with your emotions. It's either meant to help you or someone else you meet along the way. IT'S ALL GOOD!

Some time ago, I told God if he can use my pain, disappointment, hurts, humiliations and embarrassments, I will say whatever he wants me to say, which is why I know the devil hates it when I open my mouth because he doesn't know what I might say. But no matter what he tries, it won't work because IT'S ALL

GOOD. In recent years, I've experienced demonic warfare like never. I know what prompted the intensity. The devil got scared because of certain events that had taken place so he launched an all-out attack to shut me up. Getting up in church and barely being able to talk or read. Attacking my memory, hitting my mind. Knowing a scripture before and after I sit down, but drawing a blank when it was needed. But he had the wrong one. He has the wrong one. Because I draw strength from these passages plus others, I recognize what is at work and I know what has been spoken over my life and in my spirit. The enemy can't do what he desires to do. He wants to shut me up, humiliate and embarrass me, but I've been built for every ploy, scheme and attack he comes up with. Because I serve the Alpha and Omega, the beginning and the end, He has the first say so and he will have the last say so. He will have the last laugh at the devil's expense. I already know that I am to speak on the subject "The Good, The Bad and The Ugly". I don't know when and I don't know where, but one thing I am certain of is that it shall come to pass.

So, hold your head up. Don't allow the enemy to shame you over what you may be experiencing right now. IT'S ALL GOOD! Just thank God for building and sculpting your spiritual muscles. To build something, you must already have the materials. We already have faith because we are all given a measure of faith according to the Word of God. That faith must be built upon. Faith to faith. Glory to glory. To build faith, there must be some resistance, some tension. Liken it to building muscles on your body. How does that happen? There must be some degree of tension/resistance or else you won't build any mass/muscles. There is resistance/tension on the weights you use at the gym or at home to accomplish this goal. Our faith is built through the resistance/tension experienced in life. Has anyone had any tension lately? Any resistance? Didn't the Lord bring you through it? Didn't he make a way when you didn't see a way? When there really was no way in the natural? Some time ago, I asked the Lord to deliver me from people, to help me pass the people test. I tell you that you'd better be careful what you pray for and know how God operates. It's all good! He answered my prayer but not in the way I would have preferred. Now, I can be around people who talk about me as much as they please and I talk about them while down on my knees. It doesn't even phase me any more. It might still hurt but I am able to move past the hurt in remembering who I am and whose I am.

So, stay in class. Sure, you might flunk a few pop quizzes along the way, but don't give up. Stick with it. We've got help. We've got the Holy Spirit interceding for us. Jesus is at the right hand of the Father interceding for us. How can we lose when the fight is already fixed? A few years ago, I was talking to the Lord and I was saying that I felt like a boxer in a ring. After having to fight from every direction (work, family, church-you name it), at the beginning of 2013, it seemed like God had called time out for me to give me a little breather. For about the first two to three weeks, everything was falling in place. I didn't have to fight on my job, nowhere. It was almost unsettling! During Sunday School, one of our associate ministers said, "you feel almost paranoid, wondering when something is going to happen". That's how I almost was until finally I said, "Lord, you know what, I thank you and I'm not going to fret, I'm just going to enjoy this while it lasts". But how many of you know, the dust started kicking back up. So back to the boxer...I said, "Lord, I feel like one of the boxers who goes to his respective corner after the end of a round". He goes to his corner for his trainer to work on him. The trainer patches him up. Checks him out good. Gives him instructions on what to do during the fight. Gives him refreshment. You might see him take a drink of water or something. Then sends him back into the ring for another round. So, I believe I was given a time of refreshing and sent back into the ring.

Now lastly, I want to share something new that I gained in studying **verse 28**. I had never noticed this before, but my attention was directed to the phrase “to them that love God”, *to them*. I think that I have always heard it explained as “for them that love God”. Yes, all things are working together certainly for good for us who love God and who are the called. But all things are also working together for good for the unbeliever. God is not willing that any should perish, but that all should come to repentance. So, orchestrating events or allowing events to occur to draw unbelievers to Christ and to repentance is ultimately working for their good as well.

But the distinguishing factor here is all things work together for good to them that love God because we recognize that whatever my lot thou has taught me to say, it is well with my soul. We can best appreciate all things working together for good because we love the Lord no matter what. We take on the mindset of the three Hebrew boys (Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego) We know that He’s able to deliver us from the fiery furnaces of our lives, but if He doesn’t, IT’S ALL GOOD! We will not serve other gods. We will not compromise. We will continue to live holy and wait on God and his timing. We will be content in our singleness. AMEN!!!

The bible says by two or three witnesses let every word be established. Well, if we were to call upon some witnesses, I believe they would say it’s all good. David said, “Yea, though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil for thou art with me. Thy rod (protection) and thy staff (guidance) they comfort me. He’s saying it’s all good. Yes, I’m walking through a dark place right now, but it’s just a shadow. It’s just temporary/momentary and plus my shepherd is with me. That is what makes it all good. I’m not in this thing by myself. I got help! I have assurance and insurance! No weapon formed against me shall prosper (that’s assurance). I’m sealed until the day of redemption (that’s insurance). Like a good neighbor, God is there! Another witness we could call upon is Job who was recommended. God asked the devil if he had considered his servant Job. Job lost everything but regained twice as much as he had originally. IT’S ALL GOOD!

Finally, I say to you:

My brethren, count it all joy when ye fall into divers temptations, Knowing this, that the trying of your faith worketh patience. But let patience have her perfect work, that ye may be perfect and entire, wanting nothing. **James 1:2-4**

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***Would anyone like to share a situation or time when it appeared as though you were on the losing end but you came to realize that it really was for your good?

Author: JMB