

Message Four

**All Things Working Together for Good
to Those Who Love God
and Who Are Called according to His Purpose**

Scripture Reading: Rom. 8:28-29

- I. The Spirit intercedes for us and all things are working together for us so that we may be conformed to the image of the firstborn Son—Rom. 8:26-29:**
- A. The Spirit's intercession is not mainly according to the will of God but according to God Himself—vv. 26-27.
 - B. The Spirit intercedes for us that we may be fully conformed to the image of Christ—vv. 27, 29.
 - C. Christ is the pattern, and the Spirit prays that everything that happens to us will mold us into this pattern, the image of God's firstborn Son—v. 29.
- II. As a result of the Spirit's intercession, "all things" work together for good, that is, for the fulfillment of God's purpose—vv. 26, 28:**
- A. The working together of all things outside of us always follows the groaning of the Spirit within us—vv. 27-28.
 - B. God the Father is sovereign, arranges everything, and knows what is best for us; He answers the Spirit's intercession by causing all things to work together for good—that we would be conformed to the image of the firstborn Son of God for the corporate expression of the Triune God—vv. 28-29.
 - C. We need to realize that the reason we pass through sufferings is that God has a purpose and that our sufferings are the "all things" that are working together for the accomplishment of this purpose—v. 18.
 - D. According to the context, the good mentioned in verse 28 refers to our being conformed to the image of Christ as the firstborn Son of God—v. 29.
 - E. We are not in our own hands but in the Lord's hands, and He has placed us in the process by which His purpose of conformation is being fulfilled; those who realize that they are in the process of God's purpose will have genuine peace—John 10:28-29; Rom. 8:28-29; 15:33; 16:20.
- III. God has called us with the purpose of conforming us to the image of His Son, and the way to cooperate with God in His purpose is to love Him—8:28-29:**
- A. To love God is to cooperate with Him, and to cooperate with Him is to give Him an opportunity to work out His purpose in us and with us—Mark 12:30.
 - B. If we love God, everything will work together for our profit, that is, for our conformation—Rom. 8:29.
 - C. Whether all things are a profit or loss to us depends on our love for God; the secret is to love Him—v. 28; 1 Cor. 2:9:
 - 1. "You shall love the Lord your God from your whole heart and from your whole soul and from your whole mind and from all your whole strength"—Mark 12:30.
 - 2. "We love because He [God] loved us"—1 John 4:19.
 - 3. None of us can love God out of ourselves.
 - 4. God first loved us in that He infused us with His love and generated within us the love with which we love Him and one another.