

## Whose Purpose?

**Romans 8:28** *And we know that for those who love God all things work together for good, for those who are called according to his purpose.*

Permit me to illustrate the problem and then we will discover the solution. →

How often are we as Christians caught up in SELF? Too many of us are making thus blunder with this Biblical promise. As a result so many have a hard time trusting in Jesus since life is still filled with personal pain, sorrow and disappointment.

**Why is this happening?** Because we fail to live and understand that this verse is fulfilled according to HIS PURPOSE NOT OUR DESIRES!

**Let's put this verse in context by going back two verses:**

Rom. 8:26 *Likewise the Spirit helps us in our weakness. For we do not know what to pray for as we ought, but the Spirit himself intercedes for us with groanings too deep for words. 27 And he who searches hearts knows what is the mind of the Spirit, because the Spirit intercedes for the saints according to the will of God.*

**Vs 26-27 context is PRAYER.**

Martin Luther who started the Protestant reformation said this about prayer: *If I fail to spend two hours in prayer each morning, the devil gets the victory through the day. I have so much business I cannot get on without spending three hours daily in prayer.*

***It is not the power of our prayers that move the hand of Jesus but the power of the Holy Spirit that moves us to pray so that Jesus' will is accomplished.***

**What were these Christians in Roman facing? The text gives us two indications, two clues:**

First: Vs. 26-27 is obviously a reply from Paul to their discouragement with prayer.

Second: They faced "push back" from the pagan community because the message of Jesus was offensive.

### FIVE BASIC STAGES OF PERSECUTION

**PERSECUTION STAGE I. Stereotyping The Targeted Group** – To stereotype means to take a quality or observation of a limited number, and generalize it of the whole group.

**PERSECUTION STAGE II. Vilifying The Christians For Alleged Crimes Or Misconduct,** – As the stereotyping grows in intensity, Christians who do not toe the line in the cultural revolution are described as, close-minded, harmful to human dignity and freedom, intolerant, hateful, bigoted, unfair, homophobic, reactionary and just plain mean and basically bad people.



**PERSECUTION STAGE III. Marginalizing The Targeted Group's Role In Society** –Having established the (untrue) premise that the Church and the faith is very bad, and even harmful to human dignity and freedom, the next stage seeks to relegate the role of the Church to the margins.

**PERSECUTION STAGE IV. Criminalizing The Targeted Group or Its Works** – Christians, in America, are increasingly going to court to fight for their rights to openly practice their faith.

**PERSECUTION STAGE V. Persecuting The Targeted Group Outright.** Beating, Prison, death.

With this as the setting we come to *Romans 8:28 And we know that for those who love God all things work together for good, for those who are called according to his purpose.* Summarize the general message of vs. 28: Despite their infirmities the Christians in Rome need neither to fear nor to be discouraged or give up!

Dennis F. Kinlaw (1922—2017)



Satan disguises submission to himself under the ruse of personal autonomy. He never asks us to become his servants. Never once did the serpent say to Eve, "I want to be your master." The shift in commitment is never from Christ to evil; it is always from Christ to self. And instead of his will, self-interest now rules and what I want reigns. And that is the essence of sin.

— *This Day With the Master*, November 14

VS. 28 says: *We know*

How do we know? (experience, seeing the truth in action, the Word of Jesus in signs, wonders and miracles.) That is why week after week, meeting after meeting, personal conversation I ask: *What has Jesus done in your life this past week!* Most of us will miss Jesus' movement in our lives if we are not looking for it each day!

*(We know) That for those who love God....*

**QUALIFIER #1: WE HAVE TO LOVE THE ONE TRUE GOD, FATHER, SON AND HOLY SPIRIT IN ORDER FOR ANY PART OF THIS VERSE TO APPLY TO US.**

Therefore: To love the Lord Jesus is to follow Him wherever He leads, to obey Him whatever He asks, and to trust Him whatever the trial.

**SECOND QUALIFIER: .....FOR THOSE CALLED ACCORDING TO HIS PURPOSE.**

Most Christians would be hard pressed to identify accurately the purposes of God in the Bible!

**There are Four we need to Know and Do.**

**Divine Purpose #1 is that God Father, Son, & Holy Spirit be glorified in us.** *1 Peter 4:11, <sup>11</sup> whoever speaks, as one who speaks oracles of God; whoever serves, as one who serves by the strength that God supplies—in order that in everything God may be glorified through Jesus Christ.*

**Divine Purpose #2 is that Jesus be preeminent in all things.**

*Colossians 1:15-18 He [Jesus] is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn over all creation. [16] For by him all things were created: things in heaven and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or powers or rulers or authorities; all things were created by him and for him. [17] He is before all things, and in him all things hold together. [18] And he is the head of the body, the church; he is the beginning and the firstborn from among the dead, so that in everything he might have the supremacy.*

**Divine Purpose #3 is to build the Church of Jesus Christ**

*Matthew 16:15-18 “But what about you?” he asked. “Who do you say I am?” [16] Simon Peter answered, “You are the Christ, the Son of the living God.” [17] Jesus replied, “Blessed are you, Simon son of Jonah, for this was not revealed to you by man, but by my Father in heaven. [18] And I tell you that you are Peter, and on this rock I will build my church, and the gates of Hades will not overcome it.*

**Divine Purpose #4 is to purify a godly people for Himself.**

*Titus 2:13 while we wait for the blessed hope — the glorious appearing of our great God and Savior, Jesus Christ, 14 who gave himself for us to redeem us from all wickedness and to purify for himself a people that are his very own, eager to do what is good.*

**Outcome:** *All things work together for good*

Doesn't mean all things are good!

Doesn't mean things will always turn up good!

Doesn't mean we will always be rescued in this life!

Doesn't mean we won't get sick, suffer and die!

Doesn't mean we will achieve all our goals!

**It does mean:**

We are doing what we were created to do.

We are people who truly love Jesus.

We are maturing as his disciples.

We are truly his covenant people.

We are rescuing the lost and bringing them into the Kingdom of God by faith in Jesus.

We are preparing the world for Jesus' return.

**PRAYER WITH ME:**

*Jesus, because of your love and grace I will make it my goal each day:*

*To glorify your name.*

*To proclaim You preeminent in all things.*

*To build Your Church*

*To love and serve Your Church.*