

Romans 8:28

No doubt, Romans 8:28 is likely the most well known, most often quoted scripture in the bible. But at the same time, it's also one of the most misunderstood, misinterpreted scriptures in the bible.

As a matter of fact, I would have to say that more often than not, it is taken out of context, misinterpreted, and proclaimed to mean something that it doesn't! I would even dare say, that's this very might well be used more in hurting one's faith in God, than it does to help build faith! I say that in the sense that it is used to build "false hope."

Using this passage to promise something it does not promise! One of the best helps in understanding this verse, is to first understand what it does not mean...

²⁸And we know that all things work together for good to them that love God...

That does not mean, that everything's going to work itself out, that everything's going to be ok! That doesn't mean that even though things look bad, it's going to be all right! Because, that is simply not true!

Tragically, this verse is often misused by people with "good intentions," but "bad theology," who use it in efforts to comfort those going through difficult times, using it to encourage those going through difficult circumstances...and saying that everything's going to be ok! When the truth is...there often not!

Paul is NOT saying... *Whatever you're going through, just trust God, it'll all work out to good in the end!*

That's not what he's saying at all... That's as far from what the promise is as you can get! And those who propagate such are misleading those they are talking too. That is the version of the "health, wealth & prosperity" "bunch! The "name it and claim it" group!

And what they do...is build False Hope in their hearers! Because all of us know, that ALL things do not work out for our good... Most of the time, it turns out just the opposite of what we'd hoped for! A marriage may end in divorce, parents may lose a child, a child may lose its parents, cancer, etc...

To understand this verse, it helps to understand what it does not mean...and it is not a promise from God concerning our circumstances and trials will all come out good! Because simple truth is...they don't.

The "KEY" in understanding this promise is understand the "good..." and the "Who..."

²⁸And we know that all things work together for **good** to them that love God, to them who are the called according to **his purpose**.

First the "Who" The promise is made to "them that love God," ... to "them who are the called..." To them that are "Called" refers to those who are the children of God by way of the spirit...

Those whose hearts have been changed by the cross! Those who no longer serve God out of FEAR, a reference to seeking to please God by the Law, but now serve Him out of love...

Now take "all things work together for **good**" What Good? God's glory! As a result of Christ making intercession for us according to the WILL of God for our lives, we can trust that whatever happens will in some way benefit and further his will in our life, his purpose!

²⁸And we know that all things work together for **good** to them that love God, to them who are the called according to his purpose.

What is the INTENDED purpose that all the good will work to accomplish?

²⁹For whom he did foreknow, he also did predestinate to be conformed to the image of his Son, that he might be the firstborn among many brethren.

Paul is saying... *“Whatever happens...whatever Life may throw at us...one thing we can count on, is that God will use it to conform us more into the image of his son...”*

Gods will, God’s purpose is that we be conformed into the image of Christ! Now that may not seem to be such a great promise to some...but to those who *“love God”*, there’s nothing greater! The believers hearts desire is that is life would bring glory and honor to God. This passage speaks to how that is made possible. It speaks to being transformed by God, into Godly men and women. A contrast with the Law...which can never make us GODLY!

It helps the believer to understand the *“inner workings”* of salvation; how the *process of faith* works. It speaks to how we are delivered, how we are rescued, how we are saved from sin, by Jesus Christ...

²⁴For we are *saved* by hope... I think it’s important to understand that we are in the process of *“being saved”*, we are in the process of being delivered for sin. *“For we are being saved by our hope in Christ!”*

SOZO...is a very beautiful word. It carries several meanings.

It means to *heal*... That which is *“broken”* is mended by looking to Christ...

It means to *make whole*... We are *restored, made whole* by looking to Christ...

It means to *deliver*... We are *“set free”* from bondage by looking to Christ!

Paul is saying, *“that God, through the Spirit of Christ, is redeeming us from sin.”* He is restoring us! Like an old, run down house, that suffered years of neglect and the elements of nature, sin has greatly marred out lives, and we to are in need of restoration. There’s a beautiful illustration of this in Jeremiah, in the Potters house. The vessel is marred, but it pleases the potter to redo it...

Listen beloved...its important to understand this, because as Paul says in verse 23, even though we now have Christ in our hearts, that doesn’t mean that we are without sin.

²³And not only *they*, but ourselves also, which have the firstfruits of the Spirit, even we ourselves groan within ourselves, waiting for the adoption, *to wit*, the redemption of our body.

As *“believers in Christ”*, that even though Christ in our hearts, we still struggle with Sin!

But be encouraged beloved...the man who is **JUST** before God, is characterized here *“by his LONGING” to be set free from this **body of Sin!***

Ironically, it’s not their RIGHTNESS that makes them right, but their WRONGNESS... But rather those who are *“right with God”* are those who walk in the awareness of their *“depraved, sinful condition”*...

That’s contrasted to the **UNJUST** man, who has NO SUCH LONGING, because he no such **perception** of Sin! They actually SEE THEMSELVES as those who live holy, those who live righteously. *Listen very closely...This man has peace with God...but it is a **“FALSE PEACE!”*** Because His SECURITY...His TRUST...His HOPE is based on his OBEDIENCE to God’s Law...

But we, who are *“in Christ”*, have no such PEACE...we actually *“groan”* because of our sinful condition! There’s a war taking place in our lives...not Peace! We wrestle and struggle with this sin that is in us! A sin that we are totally HELPLESS to overcome, to do anything about...

But thank God, there’s HOPE for the Helpless...²⁶Likewise the Spirit also **helps** our infirmities: Beloved, even though we have Christ in our hearts, we’re far from being *“Right”*...we are far from being *“righteous...holy.”* **But!** But Christ is going to help us with that!

The whole point of this passage is, we are not made “*right*” by the Law. The Law can’t help us, it can’t FIX us, it can’t mend that which is broken, it can’t restore that which is cast down...
If anyone HOPES to be “*Right with God*”, it will come only by turning from the Law...and Looking to Christ for Help!

²⁶Likewise the Spirit also helps our infirmities: for we know not what we should pray for as we ought: but the Spirit itself makes intercession for us with groanings which cannot be uttered.

²⁷And he that searches the hearts knows what *is* the mind of the Spirit, because he makes intercession for the saints according to *the will of God*.

That speaks of Christ...That of being our mediator between God and Man. Christ came into this world, and took on the form of man, so that he could relate to us. Christ is our “High Priest”...

(Hebrews 4) ¹⁴Seeing then that we have a great high priest, that is passed into the heavens, Jesus the Son of God, let us hold fast *our* profession. ¹⁵For we have not an high priest which cannot be touched with the feeling of our infirmities; but was in all points tempted like as *we are*, yet without sin. ¹⁶Let us therefore come boldly unto the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy, and find grace to help in time of need.

Listen beloved, Christ knows what you’re going through! He knows your struggles and hardships! And he also knows God the Father. Thus he is the great MEDIATOR between God and Man! He knows what God expects, he knows the errors of our ways, and he prays to the Father accordingly!

Paul says, that without Christ...we are HOPELESS! We can’t “FIX” our problems! We don’t even know what to pray for! We are carnal, fleshly people...people who have no real understanding of spiritual things!

As James said, we often pray wrongly, pray in “*our will*”, asking God to meet the desires of the FLESH!

The very “*Thing*” of what Christ came to deliver us from! Thus, our hope is in Christ! He knows what we need, He knows how to fix us... He knows “our hearts”, and He knows the mind of God, thus makes intercession for us according to the “*Will of God*” which is contrary to the “*Will of the Flesh*!”

★ **Our part...is to simply TRUST that He knows what He’s doing...**

²⁸And we know that all things work together for good to them that love God, to them who are the called according to *his* purpose.

God will use various circumstances and situations in my life to “*Weed Out*” some things that don’t need to be in me... Like **Pride**... He may put me flat on my back, if necessary to **Humble** me... Something to which there is no LAW for! The Law can’t help me in that area, that’s a spiritual problem! What ever he uses...I’ll trust HIM! Because I want to be a Humble man... Jesus was humble.

He is going to “*Strengthen*” areas in my life that are weak... Like **Patience**...

God is longsuffering...He suffers long. And we are not! We are just the opposite, we are very short fused. We are often very intolerant with people, easily angered and quick to judgment... God may use a difficult situation that we find ourselves in, & through the Spirit, works through that difficulty to make us **more patient** people! Something the Law could never do.

He’s going to “*Grow*” me in some areas that I am still immature... Like **Compassion & Forgiveness**... And He’ll do through LIFE, and the Spirit of God working in me...

God, through various circumstances in life, and through the working of the Spirit of Christ, is going to save me from this body of sin, and make me a Godly man! He’s my only hope!

T: A **TRULY GODLY LIFE** is the result of the work of the Spirit of God in the human heart. (Galatians 5) That what Galatians means when it says... ¹⁶This I say then, Walk in the Spirit, and ye shall not fulfill the lust of the flesh. ¹⁷For the flesh lusts against the Spirit, and the Spirit against the flesh: and these are contrary the one to the other: so that ye cannot do the things that ye would. ¹⁸But if ye be led of the Spirit, ye are not under the law. ¹⁹Now the works of the flesh are manifest, which are *these*; Adultery, fornication, uncleanness, lasciviousness, ²⁰Idolatry, witchcraft, hatred, variance, emulations, wrath, strife, seditions, heresies, ²¹Envyings, murders, drunkenness, revellings, and such like: of the which I tell you before, as I have also told *you* in time past, that they which do such things shall not inherit the kingdom of God.

²²But **the fruit** of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, gentleness, goodness, faith, ²³Meekness, temperance: against such there is no law.

The comparison here simply makes it clear...

The LAW doesn't work... but the "**Way of the Cross**" the "**Way of Christ**" does!

The "FRUIT" here refers to the finished product. After all the plowing, the sowing, and the nurturing...the fruit appears. Spiritual, Godly men and women are the product that comes by "*walking in the Spirit!*" Christ works in our hearts, transforming us by His power!

²⁴And they that are Christ's have crucified the flesh with the affections and lusts. ²⁵If we live in the Spirit, let us also walk in the Spirit. Stop trying to be Godly by giving yourself to the Law...yield yourself to Christ!

A **TRULY GODLY LIFE** is the result of the work of the Spirit of God in the human heart. He who conforms to the Law may have an outward appearance of "*Godliness*," yet not be Godly at all!

Some of the most prideful, arrogant, self-centered, hotheaded, unforgiving, unloving people I know are "*Religious People!*" Yea, church members. Tragic part is...they feel as though they are right with God; they feel they are living a life that is pleasing to God, on the basis of their conformity to the Law! But problem is...inside they are raving wolves...

Listen...whether or not we conform to the Law makes no difference, because the Law can't help us. Reason being, our problem is not simply my "*outward actions*" but my "*inward attitude*." I've got a heart problem...a problem that no law can fix.

But my hope in Christ is this. That God, through His Spirit, and through every situation that I face in life, that God will do a work in me! That He would change my rebellious, sinful, hard heart into a heart like His! To the end, that I may live a life that brings glory to God!

Let me try to put this as simple as I can... If you love God, and your hearts desire is to live in a way that would bring honor and glory to Him, listen. We can walk in faith...trusting God no matter what comes our way in life! Even though we don't always SEE IT...even though we don't always understand it... We can have faith, that through whatever comes my way, whatever life may bring to us, God is working in us, to make us the men and women of God we so long to be!

Lives that reflects God's longsuffering, God's mercy, God's tenderness, God's compassion, God's love, God's forgiveness, etc... Lives that manifest Jesus Christ all over again...

²⁸And we know that all things work together for good to them that love God, to them who are the called according to *his* purpose. ²⁹For whom he did foreknow, he also did predestinate to be conformed to the image of his Son, that he might be the firstborn among many brethren.