

A Soft Pillow for Tired Hearts
Romans 8:28

*²⁸And we know that in all things God works for the good of those who love Him,
who have been called according to His purpose.*

Today's Bible lesson centers on a single verse...perhaps one of the best known and most often claimed promises in the Bible. Our task is to look at this single verse and promise with care and precision. This promise teaches us to approach life and all the many circumstances we face with faith. Paul wrote with unshakeable and unbreakable confidence in God. R. A. Torrey once wrote that "*Romans 8:28 is a soft pillow for a tired heart.*"

Verse 28 begins with the expression "*and we know.*" Paul assured his readers of the truth and veracity of what he was about to write. They could with certainty know that the legitimacy of the promise that was about to follow.

Next, Paul used the phrase "*in all things.*" Nothing in life is beyond God's compassion or grace. God doesn't abandon His people in certain times or trials. He remains faithful and true.

Then Paul wrote "*God works.*" Our God is a worker, a fighter, a protector, a defender, a savior and a Father. God is always at work around us. God will work faithfully in us if we open ourselves to Him. Consider the truth of Revelation 3:20.

Paul added "*for the good of those who love Him.*" God works in our situations for His glory and our good. Quite often, God defines good in a way much different than we do. God sees eternity. God sees the heart. God sees the future. We're often limited to present, superficial vision at best. But God has promised that if we love Him, He will work in behalf of us and for our good.

Next we read the phrase "*who have been called.*" Our salvation is the result of a divine call. God has called us to Christ and we have responded to Him. The reality that we "have been called" teaches us that God has already worked in our behalf. He has secured our salvation and eternal life. If God has taken the steps to save us for eternity, we can be confident that he will continue to work in our lives in the present.

David Jeremiah has made seven observations about verse 28. He teaches us to see the truth of this verse in these ways...

1. A definite promise confirmed by God
2. A divine promise from God
3. A determined promise dependent upon God
4. A definitive promise that only God can fulfill
5. A dynamic promise where God takes the initiative and goes to work
6. A defined promise addressed to those who love the Lord
7. A demonstrable promise witnessed in the lives of God's people

David Jeremiah further noted that we can summarize this verse by saying that *"God is ceaselessly, energetically and purposefully active on their behalf. It is God Himself who is bringing this good about in behalf of those who love Him."* We respond to this kind of promise with trust, thanksgiving and perseverance. We can hang on and press on knowing that God is with us, at work and on His throne. Our trust is not in luck, fate or good fortune. We know that God is at work.

Applications . . .

1. If you have a trial in your life at this moment, ask God to do a Romans 8:28 type of work on that trial. Entrust the trial to God's hands and workshop so He can produce something good.
2. Memorize Romans 8:28 and underline this promise in your Bible.
3. Write a brief note of support to someone whom you personally know to be struggling with a trial or burden. Reference your confidence in Romans 8:28.
4. Pray Romans 8:28 for yourself, a friend, our church and our nation. Pray for God to fulfill this verse in each of these ways.
5. Thank God for His faithfulness to His people.