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Faith Bible Church

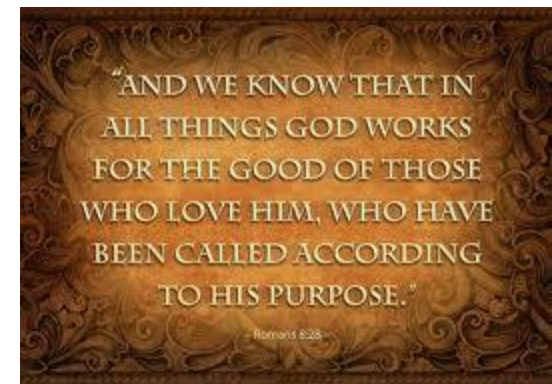
<http://www.fbcweb.org/doctrines.html>

August 16, 2011

DAILY DOCTRINE: Romans 8:28, "All things work . . .

<http://www.fbcweb.org/Doctrines/Rom8-28.pdf>

1. The "all things" that works out for the good includes suffering.
2. This good is divine good. God can work the good out of suffering so that suffering actually becomes a blessing.
3. Suffering is a necessary ingredient for virtue. It is impossible for God to zap *true* virtue in a person. Virtue is gained by making positive choices in negative circumstances—doing what is right even though you know the consequences are going to be difficult. It is in this life that God creates virtue in us to prepare us to be with Him for eternity.
4. God's plan is perfect, therefore, it includes the perfect amount of suffering and adversities to mold the character of the believer.
5. God has a solution for every problem and difficulty. No matter how you fail, sin, or succeed, God has a designed a plan for you on earth whereby all things work together for the good.
6. The link between God's solutions and our problems and failures is knowledge of Bible doctrine and its correct application.
7. With Bible doctrine the believer is prepared *when* tragedy, suffering, strife, and difficulties come. Apart from the knowledge of Bible doctrine the believer will have a deficient view of reality and erroneous views of God which will *cause* him to strike out against God in independence, defiance, and projection.



7. The solutions of God are in Bible doctrine. Having Bible doctrine is like having a million dollars in the bank that the believer can access and use for the various challenges of life.
8. Suffering that is handled through Bible doctrine brings maximum blessings, Gen. 50:20.
9. Only the believer, “the called,” has the privilege in the plan of God of *all* things working out for the Good. But he must know Bible doctrine to have the divine perspective and resources. Apart from Bible doctrine the believer will merely project his own human attitudes upon God, thereby creating God in his own image. Ugh!
10. The plan of God contains the will of God for the believer. God directs us to operate in His system as per divine guidance (cf. <http://www.fbcweb.org/Doctrines/Divine-guidance-26pp.pdf>).
11. God’s plan includes a permissive will as well. It is a logical impossibility for God to grant freewill and then to *make* a believer do something *freely*. However, God’s plan is so fantastic that it overrules the evil plans of man so that it will produce Good in His plan (e.g., Pharaoh of the Exodus). God never coerces freewill. However, while man is free in regard to choosing for God or against God. He is not free to do what he wishes in an absolute sense. Only abiding in Truth grants true freedom (John 8:32). All unbelievers are enslaved to their sin natures whether it is toward the human good side or the sinful side. People act according to their natures. A person who lacks virtue is incapable of truly being virtuous—at least for any sustained period of time. Character does shape our volition. The way a virtuous person will react to sufferings and temptations is much different than one without any virtue whatsoever. Character to a great extent determines our future, at least here on earth. One of the reasons God brings suffering into our lives is to give us opportunities to develop the character that glorifies Him—both intrinsically as well as how it plays out in our decisions *for* the plan and glory of God.

Doctrine matters!

*Pastor Don*