

SERMON OUTLINE

SERMON TITLE: The Chemistry of the Cross

SERMON REFERENCE: Romans 8:28

LWF SERMON NUMBER: #1734

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1) INTRODUCTION

- a) Romans 8:28
- b) Just as a pharmacist takes powders and noxious poisons and mixes them together to make medicine for us, God takes situations, problems and things that in themselves look bad and hurtful, and He mixes these together in the crucible of His love and wisdom.
 - i) And the result is medicine for our souls and something good and wonderful.
- c) God, by the chemistry of the cross, takes the situations and circumstances of our lives and makes them work together for our good and His glory.

2) THE CERTAINTY OF IT (ROMANS 8:28)

- a) Romans 8:28
 - i) No if's, and's or but's about it.
 - ii) This is a promise of God.
- b) We can be assured that no matter how bad it may seem, we know that we know that it will work together for God's glory and our good.
- c) God cannot lie, and He says that all things work together for good to those who love Him.

3) THE COMPLETENESS OF IT (ROMANS 8:28)

- a) Not some things, not most things, not even almost all things, but ALL things work together for good.
- b) The sweet things work together for good.
 - i) There are many blessings of God in our lives.
 - ii) These blessings ought to make us want to be better Christians.
 - iii) Romans 2:4
 - (1) The goodness of God leads us to repentance.
 - (2) God is so good.
- c) The sorrowful things work together for good.
 - i) A broken heart will work for our good.
 - ii) We see this with the people of Judah.
 - (1) God carried the people of Judah away to a strange land.
 - (2) Jeremiah 24:5
 - (3) God may be getting ready to do some terrible things to America for our good.
 - (a) We have been cursed with blessings, and we may soon be blessed with cursings.
 - (b) We have been very blessed, and we don't know how to handle our blessings.
 - (i) It seems that the more God blesses us, the more arrogant and sinful we become.
 - (ii) God may have to do something to America for our good, like He did to Judah for their good.

- iii) We see this in the life of David.
 - (1) David was man after God's own heart, but he had a tendency to stray from God.
 - (2) God afflicted David and made him sick.
 - (a) Psalm 119:71
 - (3) Affliction is sometimes the best teacher, and we never see as clearly as when we see through eyes that have been washed with tears.
 - (4) Sometimes when we are on our backs, it is then that we look up into the face of God.
- iv) We see this in the life of Joseph.
 - (1) Joseph loved God with all of his heart.
 - (2) Joseph was put in a pit by his brothers, sold as a slave, and cast into prison for two years even though he had done nothing wrong.
 - (3) But his abasement made him ready for his advancement, and he became the prime minister of Egypt.
 - (4) Genesis 50:20
 - (a) God will work all things together for good, even our enemy trying to do us harm.
- v) We see this in the life of Manasseh.
 - (1) Manasseh had difficulty serving God.
 - (a) God just couldn't get Manasseh's attention.
 - (2) 2 Chronicles 33:11-13
 - (a) The Assyrians were cruel and wicked people, and Manasseh was the king.
 - (b) Manasseh's iron chains did him more good than his golden crown.
 - (3) God may sometimes have to pull us from our thrones like He did Manasseh.
- d) The satanic things work together for good.
 - i) Many ask why God doesn't just kill the devil.
 - ii) Did you know that God uses the devil?
 - (1) The Apostle Paul had an affliction.
 - (a) 2 Corinthians 12:7
 - (b) Paul had a thorn in the flesh that he called a messenger of Satan.
 - (i) God gave this to Paul.
 - (2) All things work together for good, and God rules in the heavens.
 - (a) Even Satan unwittingly becomes the servant of God.
 - iii) There is a God who rules in the affairs of this world, and God is over all.
- e) The sinful things work together for good.
 - i) No Christian should willingly, deliberately sin.
 - (1) If you are bound to sin, you are bound to suffer.
 - (2) But even the suffering will work together for our good.
 - ii) Psalm 76:10
 - iii) Romans 5:20
 - iv) We see this in the life of Simon Peter.

- (1) Luke 22:31-34
 - (2) Luke 22:54-62
 - (3) God arched the rainbow of Romans 8:28 over what Peter did.
 - (4) Jesus forgave Peter and restored him.
 - (5) In a strange way, Peter's disobedience has been used to strengthen us.
 - (a) Jesus said, "When you are converted, strengthen your brethren."
 - (i) Luke 22:32
 - (6) God took even that sin and used it to help strengthen Peter and us.
 - (a) Hebrews 12:11
 - (b) Peter wept bitterly after he sinned.
 - (i) But afterward, it yielded the peaceable fruit of righteousness to them that exercised thereby.
 - f) The smallest things work together for good.
 - i) Pharaoh decided that all Jewish boy babies were to be put to death.
 - (1) Exodus 1:22
 - ii) But God took a little baby and had that baby placed in the bulrushes.
 - iii) Pharaoh's daughter decides to bathe in the Nile.
 - (1) This princess could bathe in her marble tubs but decided to bathe in the river.
 - iv) Exodus 2:6
 - v) God took the cry of a baby and brought Pharaoh's mighty kingdom crashing down.
 - vi) God is the sovereign God.
- 4) THE CAUSE OF IT (ROMANS 8:28)
- a) Some translations state, "And we know that God works all things together."
 - b) Ephesians 1:11
 - c) If we think that all things working together for good to those who love God is far-fetched, then it's because we just don't believe in a big enough God.
 - d) God is not dead, and it's blasphemy for us to be living like He's dead.
 - e) God is the cause of all things working together for good.
- 5) THE CONDITION OF IT (ROMANS 8:28)
- a) This is not a promise for everyone.
 - b) There is a condition to Romans 8:28.
 - i) Despisers of God cannot claim this promise.
 - ii) Haters of God cannot claim this privilege and promise.
 - c) There may be others who can give more than we can, sing better than we can, they may have more resources than we have, they may have more opportunities than we have, but nobody has a monopoly on love.
 - i) Anybody can love God as much as they want to love God.
 - d) Loving God is the condition for having Romans 8:28 work in our lives.
 - e) If we put this verse in reverse, it would say that to those who don't love God, all things work together for evil.

- i) For those who don't love God, seemingly good things can work against them.
 - (1) Preaching can work against them.
 - (a) If someone goes to church with no intention of loving God, then the sermon can do them harm.
 - (b) 2 Corinthians 2:16
 - (c) Hebrews 4:12
 - (d) Mark 6:11
 - (e) Preaching is good; but if you refuse it, it works together for bad.
 - (2) If those who don't receive Jesus, He works together for bad.
 - (a) The Lord Jesus is the door.
 - (i) John 10:9
 - (b) The door is what lets you in and what keeps you out.
 - (i) To those who love Him, He's the way in.
 - (ii) To those who refuse Him, His righteousness and His holiness say that they cannot come in.
 - (c) The wicked pluck death from the tree of life.
 - (d) If Jesus is not your Savior, then He'll be your judge.
 - (i) We will all meet Jesus.
 - (ii) We will bow the knee to Jesus.
 - 1. We will either bow to Him as Savior and Lord, or we will bow to Him as judge and executioner.
 - 2. Romans 14:11
 - (3) The resurrection of Jesus Christ is very good, but not if you're unsaved.
 - (a) Acts 17:31
 - (i) The assurance of judgment is the resurrection of Jesus.
 - (ii) The same God who raised up Jesus Christ is the God who will raise up those who have rejected Him, and they will come to the judgment.
 - 1. We cannot hide from God.
 - (b) The resurrection of Christ will seal their doom for those who reject Him.
- 6) THE CONSEQUENCES OF IT (ROMANS 8:28-29)
- a) Romans 8:29
 - i) The word "for" at the beginning of this verse is a preposition meaning "unto."
 - (1) It moves toward something.
 - b) The good that all things are working together for is not to make us healthy, wealthy or happy.
 - i) It's to make us like Jesus.
 - ii) The good is that we be conformed to the image of God's Son.

- (1) How wonderful that we can be like the Lord Jesus and be with the Lord Jesus and be glorified with Him in eternity.
- c) God has not finished with us.
 - i) Philippians 1:6

7) CONCLUSION

- a) If you are not saved and thinking that everything is going well for you and that you don't need God, the Bible contains a warning.
 - i) Judges 5:20
 - (1) Sisera didn't love God, and the whole universe was against him.
 - (2) No matter how good things may seem right now, it's going to cave in for you because all things work together for bad to those who don't love God.
 - ii) The devil always gives the best first.
 - (1) Proverbs 20:17
- b) Jesus always saves the best for the last.
 - i) John 2:7-10
- c) The consequences of loving God are that one day we will be glorified with the Lord, and we will be made like Him.
- d) Turn to Jesus today; don't put it off any longer.
 - i) Surrender to His Lordship.
- e) Pray to Him today, asking Him to come into your life.
- f) Call upon Jesus today. Repent (turn) from your sins, and turn to Jesus. Ask Him to forgive you of your sins, and acknowledge Him as Lord of your life.
 - i) Romans 3:23
 - ii) Romans 10:9-10
 - iii) Romans 10:13
 - iv) Acts 16:31
 - v) John 3:16