

SERMON OUTLINE

SERMON TITLE:	Why Do Good Things Happen to Bad People?
SERMON REFERENCE:	Romans 8:28-39
LWF SERMON NUMBER:	#2075

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1) INTRODUCTION

- a) What is life all about?
 - i) There are things that we don't understand.
 - ii) There are circumstances that we can't control.
 - iii) There are joys unspeakable and full of glory.
 - iv) Life is full of mystery, misery and magnificence, but it doesn't seem to make sense.
- b) In Romans 8, we learn that God brings sense to all that we see.
 - i) We learn about the magnificent grace of God in it all and through it all.
- c) A question many people ask is, "Why do bad things happen to good people?"
 - i) But there are no good people.
 - (1) Romans 3:10
 - (2) In and of ourselves, there are no good people.
 - (3) Romans 3:23
 - ii) The question that really should be asked is, "Why do good things happen to bad people?"
 - (1) This is because of the grace of God.
 - (2) Everything good that has come to us is because of the grace of God, in spite of our sins.
- d) In our Scripture today, we will find a divine plan and an incredible promise.
 - i) Today's message will present four things that are true for every person who comes to know Jesus Christ as their personal Lord and Savior.

2) WE ARE GRACED BY GOD'S PURPOSE (ROMANS 8:28)

- a) Romans 8:28
 - i) Not some things but all things.
 - ii) God has a purpose.
- b) God's purpose is to make us like Jesus.
 - i) Romans 8:28-29
 - (1) God's eternal purpose is to conform people into the image of His Son.
 - ii) When God created Adam and Eve in the Garden of Eden, He created them in His image.
 - (1) He did this so that they could know Him, worship Him and fellowship with Him.
 - iii) Since that image has been marred, Jesus Christ came to the cross to restore that image.
 - (1) He does this, first of all, by regeneration.
 - (a) This is when we are saved and made partakers of the Holy Ghost.
 - (2) He then does it by sanctification.
 - (a) We are being made more and more like the Lord Jesus Christ.
 - (3) Then, when Jesus comes in glorification, we will be made just like the Lord Jesus.
 - iv) If you want to know how you're doing in your Christian life, ask yourself this question:

- (1) Are you becoming more like Jesus?
 - (a) This isn't asking if you're a better church member.
 - (b) Are you having God's purpose being fulfilled in you?
- v) God is not primarily concerned about making us healthy, wealthy or popular.
 - (1) His plan is to make us more like the Lord Jesus.
- c) God's purpose in us will be fulfilled.
 - i) Philippians 1:6
 - ii) Romans 8:30
 - iii) Romans 8:29
 - iv) It is already settled that we will be like Jesus.
 - (1) It is predetermined and predestined that we, as Christians, will be like Jesus.
 - (a) God never predestines anyone to Hell.
 - (b) Predestination does not deal with the lost but with the saved.
 - (i) Romans 8:29
 - (c) When God sees us receiving Christ as our personal Lord and Savior, He predestines us to be like the Lord Jesus Christ.
 - (2) "Predestined" means that it's already done in the heart and mind of God.
 - (a) This doesn't mean that we don't have any choices.
 - (i) We make choices every day.
 - (b) But while we are making a lot of little decisions, there is one great, big, overarching decision that has already been made.
 - (i) God is going to make us like Jesus.
 - d) Romans 8:28
 - i) This is something that is obvious.
 - e) We don't have to understand predestination.
 - i) We don't have to understand the Bible, but we better start believing the Bible.
 - (1) It is not a book first and foremost to be explained; it is a book first and foremost to be believed.
 - f) We have been graced with His purpose, and we're going to be like the Lord Jesus no matter what else happens.

3) WE ARE GUIDED BY GOD'S PROVIDENCE (ROMANS 8:28)

 - a) God fulfills His purpose by His providence.
 - b) Romans 8:28
 - i) "For" is a preposition.
 - (1) This particular preposition in the Greek language means that we're moving toward a goal.
 - (2) It implies movement toward an object.
 - (a) God has a goal in mind.
 - c) What is providence?

- i) Our English word “providence” comes from two words which mean “ahead of time” and “video” (to see).
 - (1) “Providence” means “to see ahead of time” and “to make provision.”
- ii) God sees the event before it ever gets here.
 - (1) He sees ahead of time and moves everything toward the goal that He has in mind.
 - (a) All things are working together for good (toward that good) because of God’s providence.
- iii) God looks ahead and makes provision.
- d) Many times, appearances are deceiving.
 - i) We don’t live by appearances; we live by promises.
 - ii) We don’t live by explanations; we live by promises.
 - iii) Even when God does not rule, God overrules.
- e) There is a lot of evil in the world, but don’t get the idea that God causes all things.
 - i) Romans 8:28 does not say that God causes all things.
 - ii) Not everything that happens is God’s will.
 - (1) Rape is not God’s will.
 - (2) Murder is not God’s will.
 - (3) Racial hatred is not God’s will.
 - (4) Perversion is not God’s will.
 - (5) Adultery is not God’s will.
 - iii) Man has a will and an evil heart.
 - (1) But even when man does evil, where God does not rule, God overrules.
 - (a) God is still in charge.
- f) There are times when God will engineer by His providence circumstances that look evil to us, but they are not evil.
 - i) God has a wonderful plan.
 - ii) God’s unseen hand may be doing something that we think is bad, but really is good.
 - (1) God may be protecting us.
 - (2) Genesis 37-50
 - (a) Young Joseph was seventeen years old, and he was suffering.
 - (i) His brothers sold him into slavery to a caravan of Ishmaelites.
 - (ii) He was carried into Egypt where he was lied about by Potiphar’s wife.
 - (b) He languished in prison, but he finally became the prime minister of Egypt.
 - (c) Genesis 50:20
 - (i) It was God who brought the caravan of slave traders.
 - (ii) It was God who overruled the lie of Potiphar’s wife.
- g) We should not read Romans 8:28 to say that all things are good.
 - i) All things are not good.
 - ii) There are some terrible things in this world.

- iii) The point is not that things are good, but that God is good.
 - h) Ephesians 1:11
 - i) Romans 8:28
 - i) The Greek word for “working” is the word from which we get our English word “synergy.”
 - (1) There is a synergy of divine energy where God is working all things together for good.
 - j) It has been stated that God is too good to be unkind and too wise to make a mistake.
- 4) WE ARE GUARDED BY GOD’S POWER (ROMANS 8:31)
- a) Romans 8:31
 - i) We should never think that this world will honor us if we serve the Lord Jesus.
 - ii) “If God be for us” literally has the idea of God being in our place.
 - (1) He died for us as our substitute.
 - (2) It doesn’t just mean that if God is on our side but that God is in our place.
 - (a) If God is our substitute in the Lord Jesus Christ, if He is in our place, then who can be against us?
 - (3) Whoever comes against us is really coming against the one who stands for us.
 - b) Satan wants us to doubt and have questions in our minds.
 - i) Satan loves to ask insinuating questions.
 - (1) Genesis 3:1
 - (a) This was a question designed to instill doubt in the heart and mind of Eve.
 - ii) He even has the audacity to ask God insinuating questions.
 - (1) Job 1:9
 - c) There are five questions that the devil cannot answer:
 - i) Who can be against us?
 - (1) There is no intimidation.
 - (2) Romans 8:31
 - (3) God is in our place.
 - (a) Jesus died for us.
 - (4) When Satan comes to intimidate us, he is literally coming against God Himself.
 - (5) Isaiah 41:13-14
 - (a) It is better to be a worm with God on our side than to be a bull elephant all by ourselves.
 - (b) God is with us.
 - ii) What would God withhold?
 - (1) There is no deprivation.
 - (2) Romans 8:32

- (3) If God gave the great gift of Jesus while we were sinners, then what is He going to do for us now that we're His children?
 - (4) If He gave the great gift when we didn't even ask, what will He give for the asking?
 - (5) If He gave Jesus, then would He withhold anything else?
 - (a) If God gave the first gift, then everything else comes with Jesus.
 - iii) Who can lay any charge against us?
 - (1) There is no incrimination.
 - (2) Romans 8:33
 - (a) This passage doesn't say who would like to charge us.
 - (i) It literally means "who is qualified to do so."
 - (3) Satan will try to accuse us.
 - (a) Revelation 12:10
 - (4) Who can lay any charge against us when the Bible says that He took all things out of the way and nailed them to the cross?
 - (a) Colossians 2:14
 - (b) When Jesus died on the cross, He said that it was paid in full.
 - (i) John 19:30
 - (c) Romans 4:8
 - (5) No one can lay any charge against any child of God.
 - iv) Who can condemn us?
 - (1) There is no condemnation.
 - (2) Romans 8:34
 - (3) Romans 8:1
 - (4) The only one who would be qualified to condemn us is the one who died for us.
 - (a) And the Bible says that He lives to make intercession for us.
 - (i) Hebrews 7:25
 - (b) He is not going to condemn us.
 - (i) Romans 8:33-34
 - v) Who can separate us from Christ's love?
 - (1) There is no separation.
 - (2) Romans 8:35
 - (3) The devil tries to tell us that tribulation, distress, persecution, famine, peril and sword can separate us from the love of Christ.
 - (a) The Bible doesn't tell us that these things are not going to happen.
 - (i) They happened to Paul.
 - (b) But these things don't separate us from the love of Christ; they draw us closer to the Lord.
- 5) WE ARE GLADDENED BY GOD'S PRESENCE (ROMANS 8:38-39)
- a) Romans 8:38-39
 - i) When you have sorrow and sickness, He is there.
 - ii) He never stops loving us.

- iii) Not in the absence of all of these things but in all of these things, we are more than conquerors.
 - (1) Romans 8:37
 - b) We are in the circle of God's grace and love.
 - i) God means us no harm.
 - ii) He wants to grow us.
 - iii) He is watching over us.
- 6) CONCLUSION
- a) Romans 8:28
 - b) Romans 8:39
 - c) If you are not saved and you want to step into the circle of God's love and be His child, you can today.
 - i) Receive Jesus Christ as your Lord and Savior today.
 - d) Pray to Him today and ask Him to come into your life.
 - e) 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