

DON'T WORRY, BE HAPPY

Romans 8:28 (16-39)

(Not entirely original with me)

Introduction: Ever been told to "not worry because everything will be just fine?" All of us have probably told somebody, probably one of our children the same thing, "it's going to be alright..." Then there was this Jamaican song "Don't Worry, Be Happy..." We all know, however, that none of this is completely true for we have seen accidents, sickness happen and good people have bad things happen to them, soldiers coming home from battle with permanent injuries. Yet we still repeat that phrase, "don't worry, be happy, everything is going to be alright..." Every generation of every culture and nation has said those same words in one form or other and the apostle Paul even wrote something similar, found in our text.

Paul certainly was familiar with suffering, having been through near death experiences, beatings, imprisonments, persecutions, etc. yet he speaks of things working out for the good. What good things and for whom?

I. ALL THINGS DON'T WORK OUT FOR THE GOOD FOR EVERYBODY

1. Paul is not making this statement, promise to everybody.
 - Only to those who *"love God and who are called according to His purpose..."*
 - He does not mean that as long as a person loves God, things work out but when you are not loving God, things don't work out for your good.
 - How much a person loves God does not affect how God will love us.
 - A person's love or lack of love doesn't affect what Jesus has done or how much God will love.
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II. WHAT EXACTLY KIND OF "GOOD" HAPPENS? (v29)

1. The good Paul is talking about is not our comfort, wealth or even our health.
 - Paul is talking about being like Jesus.
2. In the end, finally, ultimately, all things work together to bring each Christian into being like Jesus and to bring each Christian home to Heaven. (v30)
 - Even the difficult things that happen to us can be used to make us more like the Lord Jesus.

III. THE "GOOD" THAT HAPPENS MAY NOT HAPPEN DOWN HERE

1. There are not just certain believers, Christians who will benefit from difficult things but every believer, every Christian will benefit. NO ONE will miss out on the "good" that will happen.
2. The Christian may not see any "good" come of all the trials, tribulations, pain, hurt, etc. that he/she might go through during his/her lifetime, however, this world is not the end of all things.
 - For the Christian there awaits a place beyond this earth which is real, which he/she can be a part of as much as a part of this world and that place is even more real and will be a permanent place.
 - God is using our lives down here, on this earth, to conform us to the image of His Son, the Lord Jesus.

3. The Christian is not to accept what "good" happens down here during his/her life on this earth as the only "good" God has for His Children.
 - *"...For I consider that our present sufferings cannot even be compared to the glory that will be revealed to us..." (8:18)*
 - Health, wealth, comfort down here is fine and well, but that is not the good that Paul was writing about, it is not the "goal" of the Christian life, that of being like Jesus Christ.

CONCLUSION:

1. Every human being has difficult, hard times and often asks, "Why me? Why me?"
2. All things in the believer's life are allowed and sometimes even caused by God.
3. God intends for all things He allows, even causes, in the believer's life to cause him/her to be more like the Lord Jesus Christ.
4. So, "Don't Worry, Be Happy" Christian when difficulties come for God is helping you become more like the Lord Jesus Christ when all is said and done.
 - NO, it's not pleasant nor enjoyable, it is stressful, difficult, to say the least, but in the end when it is past, you will be more like Jesus than before.