

**PROVIDENCE FOR GOOD**  
**Romans 8:26-28**

**INTRODUCTION**

- A. God has granted to us great promises. 2 Peter 1:3-4
- B. Some of these promises clearly imply God's providence.
  - 1. Hebrews 13:5-6
  - 2. 1 Corinthians 10:13
- C. Bad things happen to good people.
  - 1. But, through it all, God's providential care continues.

**I. A CONFIDENT STATEMENT.**

- A. "And We Know..."
  - 1. 2 Timothy 1:12
  - 2. 2 Corinthians 5:1
  - 3. Batsell Barrett Baxter, *"Some men would say of this passage, "Can it be true?" Others would say, "I wish it were true." Still others would say, "I hope it is true." But notice that Paul begins the verse with "we know." It is not merely hope or a wish or a possibility, for Paul says, "We know..."*  
Sermon: *Providence of God, Oct. 1959*

**II. A COMPREHENSIVE STATEMENT.**

- A. "All Things..."
  - 1. In the Bible, "all things" does not always mean "everything" in existence.
    - a. 1 Corinthians 3:21
    - b. 2 Corinthians 5:18
  - 2. The text is not encouraging us to sin and does not teach that sinfulness will be good for us. In fact, the opposite is taught.
    - a. 1 Corinthians 15:34
    - b. Ephesians 4:26
    - c. 1 John 2:1
  - 3. Everything that happens to us in life can be used by God to bring about ultimate good.
  - 4. The context emphasizes that God does this because He loves us. Romans 8:31-39

**III. A COORDINATING STATEMENT.**

- A. "Working Together..."
  - 1. All things are not good, but they "work together" for good.
  - 2. Taste individually the ingredients in a cake:
    - a. Flour, shortening, salt, baking powder, milk and sugar.
    - b. The end result is a tasty cake – ingredients not so tasty!
- B. Example of Esther.
  - 1. Good things and bad things were taking place.
  - 2. Even though the working of God was never specifically mentioned, you cannot begin to suggest that it worked out by accident. Esther 4:14
  - 3. We have trials and tribulations, but in all things we overwhelmingly conquer, v. 37.

**IV. A COMFORTING STATEMENT.**

- A. "...For Good..."
  - 1. Whatever life may bring, we can cling to this truth:

- a. If we maintain our faith in God, in the end He will make sure that good will result. Colossians 1:22-23
  - b. Sometimes we may question, because we see the righteous struggling with such problems in life.
- 2. Perhaps we spend too much time looking at our earthly home.
  - a. Including honor, riches, pleasure, popularity, good health.
  - b. The wrong measuring stick.
- 3. Scripture to consider:
  - a. Psalm 86:12
  - b. Ecclesiastes 12:13
  - c. Matthew 5:16
- B. Our purpose twofold:
  - 1. To glorify God, 1 Peter 2:9-10.
  - 2. To prepare to be with God throughout eternity, Titus 2:11-13.
  - 3. *Anything that takes us away from God is “evil”, and anything that brings us closer to God is “good”.*
    - i. Luke 12:15 – material blessings often draw us away from God.
    - ii. Matthew 19:24
- C. Even in Illness?
  - 1. Psalm 119:71
  - 2. May help us to grow in spiritual maturity. 2 Corinthians 12:9-10
  - 3. So we can bring comfort to others. 2 Corinthians 1:3-5

## V. A CONDITIONAL STATEMENT.

- A. “To Those Who Love the Lord...”
  - 1. It is not for everyone, but...
    - a. For those who love God.
    - b. And for those called according to His purpose.
  - 2. Loving God. Matthew 22:36-37; 1 John 5:3
- B. Called According to His Purpose.
  - 1. The word “called” refers to answering the gospel call.
    - a. 2 Thessalonians 2:14 (for this purpose, vs. 13)
    - b. In response, they are baptized, Acts 2:36-38.
    - c. The Lord adds them to His body, the church, Acts 2:47.
  - 2. The desire to fulfill God’s purposes and do God’s will.

## CLOSING

- A. We know...
- B. This verse makes sense to those who have surrendered their lives to God.
- C. Accept His invitation and enjoy God’s goodness. Deuteronomy 28:1-2