

Called According to His Purpose

June 11, 2023 ▪ Nick Braitto

God will _____ all things together according to His good purpose. (28-30)

Jesus and the Spirit are _____ for us according to His good purpose. (26-27, 31-34)

God will forever _____ us according to His good purpose. (35-39)

Romans 8:26-39

²⁶ Likewise the Spirit helps us in our weakness. For we do not know what to pray for as we ought, but the Spirit himself intercedes for us with groanings too deep for words. ²⁷ And he who searches hearts knows what is the mind of the Spirit, because the Spirit intercedes for the saints according to the will of God.

²⁸ And we know that for those who love God all things work together for good, for those who are called according to his purpose. ²⁹ For those whom he foreknew he also predestined to be conformed to the image of his Son, in order that he might be the firstborn among many brothers. ³⁰ And those whom he predestined he also called, and those whom he called he also justified, and those whom he justified he also glorified.

³¹ What then shall we say to these things? If God is for us, who can be against us? ³² He who did not spare his own Son but gave him up for us all, how will he not also with him graciously give us all things? ³³ Who shall bring any charge against God's elect? It is God who justifies. ³⁴ Who is to condemn? Christ Jesus is the one who died—more than that, who was raised—who is at the right hand of God, who indeed is interceding for us.

³⁵ Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? Shall tribulation, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or danger, or sword? ³⁶ As it is written,

*"For your sake we are being killed all the day long;
we are regarded as sheep to be slaughtered."*

³⁷ No, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him who loved us. ³⁸ For I am sure that neither death nor life, nor angels nor rulers, nor things present nor things to come, nor powers, ³⁹ nor height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord. (ESV)

Personal Reflection or Group Discussion Questions

Open: How would you describe the purpose of God?

Read: Romans 8:26-39

Discuss:

1. Verse 28 says God works all things for good for “those who love God” and “those who are called according to his purpose.” Why might Paul have felt it necessary to add these qualifiers? How should it impact our lives to think of ourselves as people who’ve been “called according to His purpose” (v. 28)?
2. We saw in verse 28 that God works all things “together for good.” In light of verses 29-30, how would you describe the “good” that God is committed to accomplishing? What are some other ways we sometimes define “good” that may not necessarily align with God’s purpose as described here?
3. In verses 31-35, Paul asks a series of questions. Identify the biblical truth implied in each question. What do verses 31-35 reveal about the character of God? In what ways might we be tempted to believe that God is in some way different than He is described here?
4. How does it make you feel to know that both Jesus (v. 34) and the Holy Spirit (vv. 26-27) are interceding for you? Based on what you see in this passage, what might they be praying for you?
5. Verse 35-36 speak of a number of possible trials that followers of Jesus can expect. Why do you think such trials might come upon Christians? Why do trials often cause us to question the love of God toward us? When in the midst of trials, what truths do you find helpful to remember?
6. In what sense are “we are more than conquerors through him who loved us,” as Paul states in verse 37? Why does Satan long for us to doubt God’s love for us?
7. Imagine you’re experiencing some form of trial or persecution and a friend says to you, “Oh, well, I’m sure everything will turn out all right.” Would this be encouraging to you? Why or why not? What would be a more biblical perspective to have through a trial?

Apply: How do the various promises of this passage encourage you as you pursue a life devoted to God’s purpose in you and in the world?

Pray: Ask God to give you confidence in His promises. Ask God for opportunities to proclaim the Gospel of Christ and for courage to stand firm in the midst of challenges and adversity.