

## Sermon Notes

One thing I need to remember from hearing today's Bible Reading and Teaching.

### Bible Reading

#### Romans 8:18-39

<sup>18</sup> I consider that our present sufferings are not worth comparing with the glory that will be revealed in us. <sup>19</sup> For the creation waits in eager expectation for the children of God to be revealed. <sup>20</sup> For the creation was subjected to frustration, not by its own choice, but by the will of the one who subjected it, in hope <sup>21</sup> that the creation itself will be liberated from its bondage to decay and brought into the freedom and glory of the children of God.

<sup>22</sup> We know that the whole creation has been groaning as in the pains of childbirth right up to the present time. <sup>23</sup> Not only so, but we ourselves, who have the firstfruits of the Spirit, groan inwardly as we wait eagerly for our adoption to sonship, the redemption of our bodies. <sup>24</sup> For in this hope we were saved. But hope that is seen is no hope at all. Who hopes for what they already have? <sup>25</sup> But if we hope for what we do not yet have, we wait for it patiently.

<sup>26</sup> In the same way, the Spirit helps us in our weakness. We do not know what we ought to pray for, but the Spirit himself intercedes for us through wordless groans. <sup>27</sup> And he who searches our hearts knows the mind of the Spirit, because the Spirit intercedes for God's people in accordance with the will of God.

<sup>28</sup> **And we know that in all things God works for the good of those who love him, who have been called according to his purpose.** <sup>29</sup> For those God foreknew he also predestined to be conformed to the image of his Son, that he might be the firstborn among many brothers and sisters. <sup>30</sup> And those he predestined, he also called; those he called, he also justified; those he justified, he also glorified.

<sup>31</sup> What, then, shall we say in response to these things? If God is for us, who can be against us? <sup>32</sup> He who did not spare his own Son, but gave him up for us all—how will he not also, along with him, graciously give us all things? <sup>33</sup> Who will bring any charge against those whom God has chosen? It is God who justifies. <sup>34</sup> Who then is the one who condemns? No one. Christ Jesus who died—more than that, who was raised to life—is at the right hand of God and is also interceding for us. <sup>35</sup> Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? Shall trouble or

hardship or persecution or famine or nakedness or danger or sword? <sup>36</sup> As it is written:

“For your sake we face death all day long; we are considered as sheep to be slaughtered.”

<sup>37</sup> No, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him who loved us. <sup>38</sup> For I am convinced that neither death nor life, neither angels nor demons, neither the present nor the future, nor any powers, <sup>39</sup> neither height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God that is in Christ Jesus our Lord.

### A prayer before the reading and studying of the Bible.

Almighty God and loving heavenly Father, guide me and teach me of yourself from your Word. Help me and others to see the wisdom and value of living life according to your word the Bible; through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord, who lives and reigns with you in unity with the Holy Spirit, one God forever and ever. Amen.

### A Bible Study

When we say that God is omnibenevolent, we are saying that God is perfectly good and that no action or motive or thought or feeling or anything else about Him is not purely good. He is “all-good.” The Bible provides many testimonies of God's goodness, including Jesus'

own, when He asserted that no one is truly good except God Himself (Mark 10:18). Although human beings can do good things, only God is omnibenevolent, or wholly and perfectly good. We bring this fact to passages like Romans 8:18-39. In particular verses like **Romans 8:28**. Our problem accepting this is that we project our imperfect and inadequate human understanding of what “good” is on God. “Good” as understood and carried out by God is eternally more “good” than our understanding of what “good” is. “For my thoughts are not your thoughts, neither are your ways my ways,” declares the Lord” Isaiah 55:8. How then should we respond?

**1** What do you understand verse 18 to be saying to you? What do you find hard to believe about this at times?

**2** What proof has been given to you that “in all things God works for the good of those who love him”? (See verses 31 and 32)

**3** God is perfectly good because he is perfectly loving, and perfectly loving because he is perfectly good. When things occur that make us question the goodness and love of God what are we to remember? (See verses 33 to 39.)

Take a moment to think on the **omnibenevolence** of God and spend a moment in prayer thanking him.