

Apprehend Clearly!!

"And I know that all things work together for good for those that love God, and are called according to His purpose" (Romans 8:28).

There is no record ever showing that the Apostle Paul had known Jesus personally prior to the crucifixion of Christ. This means that Paul was able to write the things he wrote because he had personally experienced them.

We know that he wrote many of the books and passages in the New Testament and yet, Paul had to receive Christ by faith and get to know him just as you do. Paul had to trust Christ just like you do and Paul's only connection to God- was the same way you are connected, by faith and faith alone.

When Paul wrote Romans 8:28 he was not sitting in a hot tub or soaking up the rays on the beach. This passage was written after Acts 14:19, "They stoned Paul and dragged him outside of the city thinking he was dead and left him there."

Stoning someone to death is one of the slower forms of execution. It is meant to produce intense torture before the person dies. What exactly is stoning and what does that mean?

- The individuals would have their hands tied behind them.
- Some would be put into a "human sack" and tightly tied up.
- They would bury the individuals in the ground, leaving a small amount of their body exposed.
- A large circle would be drawn around the individual, and stones could only be thrown from outside the circled area.
- Stones were palm-sized so death could not be expected from just one or two blows. They were used to inflict physical harm and sharp pain.
- They were thrown at the person until they were battered to death.
- It is very barbaric and bloody and the average execution lasted well over 20 minutes in most cases.

WOW...Paul was no stranger to the troubles of life. All those other letters, scriptures and stories had already been written when Paul penned Romans 8:28. Today focus is on the two words, "we know" used within this passage of Romans 8:28. There is a two-fold message in this passage "And we know"-

The word "know" means:

- To understand somethings as fact or truth; to apprehend clearly and with certainty: possessing inside.

- To have developed a relationship with (someone) through meeting and spending time with them; be familiar or friendly with
- To learn by instruction. By instruction and learning comes knowledge of something.

If you can accept the truth of God's promise, then you have to believe that "in all things God works for the good of those who love him, who have been called according to his purpose."

By using the above definitions you can see what "know" implies for you. You were created to know God in a personal way. You were created to have an intimate relationship with Him, through His Son, Jesus Christ and the more time you spend with Him, the more you get to know Him.

Rev. Dr. Gina Cobb
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