



RHEMA BIBLE STUDY

WEDNESDAYS

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God works in “everything” – not just isolated incidents—for our good. This does not mean that all that happens to us is good. Evil is prevalent in our fallen world, but God is able to turn every circumstance around for our long-range good. Note that God is not working to make us happy but to fulfill His purpose. Note also that this promise is not for everybody. It can be claimed only by those who love God and are called by Him, that is, those whom the Holy Spirit convinces to receive Christ. Such people have a new perspective, a new mind-set. They trust in God, not in worldly treasures; their security is in heaven, not on earth. Their faith in God does not waver in pain and persecution because they know God is with them.

This is one of the most wonderful promises in the Bible for the child of God.

1. Consider the certainty of the promise (“*we know*”). What a marvelous salvation!
2. Consider the recipients of the promise (“*them that love God, who are the called according to his purpose*”)

The promise does not apply to those who “love God” by their own definition. Unsaved religionists and nominal Christians claim to love God, but the promise is much more specific than that.

The promise applies to those who love God AND who are the called according to His purpose. This refers to those who are called by the gospel of Jesus Christ and who respond to the gospel in repentance and faith ([1 Thess. 1:9-10](#)). The promise is for born again people and who show the evidence thereof in their lives.

3. Consider the meaning of the promise.

The verse does not say that all things are good in themselves; it says that they work together for good. *Consider Job*. The things that the devil was allowed to do to Job were not good, but God used them for good. *Consider Joseph*. What Joseph’s brothers did when they sold him into slavery wasn’t good and it caused much pain and sorrow. Jacob, not understanding what God was doing, said “all these things are against me” ([Gen. 42:36](#)). But God used these evil actions to accomplish His will. See [Genesis 45:4-5](#); [50:20](#). Evil things are not good in themselves but they can work together for good under God’s hand.

The verse does not say that evil things are good and won’t be judged and don’t need to be repented of. God uses the devil, as He did in Job’s life, but the devil’s work is not good, and he will be punished forever in the lake of fire because of his works ([Rev. 20:10](#)). God used the sinful action of Joseph’s brothers, but their consciences convicted them and they had to repent of what they did ([Gen. 42:21](#)). This is one of the reasons why Joseph dealt with them as he did.

4. Consider the extent of the promise. For those who know God in Jesus Christ, this promise covers all things in life and is one of the most precious and amazing promises in all of God's Word. Consider Job. "All things" for him meant the violent destruction of his children, the sudden loss of all of his wealth, the unexpected onslaught of a terrible disease, the failure of his wife's faith in God, the misunderstanding and lack of compassion on the part of his best friends, and the mocking of society at large. "All things" truly means all things! Job teaches the saint to trust God in the direst of circumstances. All things for Joseph meant the hatred and rejection of his brothers, being sold into captivity for 13 years (compare [Gen. 37:2](#) and 40:46), being lied about by a wicked woman, being imprisoned, being bound in irons ([Psa. 105:17-18](#)). "It covers the good and the bad, the bright and the dark, the sweet and the bitter, the easy and the hard, the happy and the sad. It may be depended upon in prosperity and poverty, in health and sickness, in the calm and in the storm, in life and in death" (H.L. Willmington).

5. Consider what the promise teaches us about God.

The promise shows the greatness of God's power and knowledge. Compare [Psalm 75:5-7](#); [Isaiah 40:22-23](#); [Jeremiah 27:5-7](#); [Daniel 2:20-21](#).

The promise shows the greatness of God's compassion and tender mercies. Indeed, as Peter says, the child of God can cast his care upon God "for he careth for you" ([1 Pet. 5:7](#)).

The promise teaches us that God is near and not far away. He is intimately involved in the affairs of men.

Have you ever asked...

Why did God allow this to happen to me?

If God is so good then why didn't He stop it from happening?

How should Romans 8:28 change the way we think? Change our mood, emotions and outlook on life?

Does this promise seem too good to be true? Does it sound trite?

How do you feel when someone says "don't worry everything will be all right in the end"?

When you read this verse, do you really think it includes you?

Can you look back on a time of personal crisis or pain and now see how good came out of it?

Please share with class...

Chapter One talks about our basis for optimism. A notable quote is “a depressed, dejected, dispirited believer is a poor recommendation for the Christian Faith. We’re to be hopeful people—optimists—who have grasped the reality of Romans 8:28 and its guarantee of God’s all-encompassing providence over the lives of His children. This sets us apart from everyone else on Earth.”

Do you find it difficult to be optimistic in this Covid-19 world?

The Lord doesn’t want us to remain discouraged in life. Let’s take a look at these passages and make a list of the attitudes God desires for us.

- Joshua 1:9
- Psalm 27:3
- Philippians 4:4
- Proverbs 15:13
- Proverbs 15:15

How often do you feel strong, courageous, unafraid, undiscouraged, confident, rejoicing, happy, and cheerful? Is that the general state of your soul, or do you struggle with more downward emotions?

End Session One