



## ROMANS 8:28

*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.*

## ROMANS 8:26,34

*Christ Jesus ... is at the right hand of God and is also interceding for us.*

## NOTES FOR LEADERS

Upcoming Christmas dates to diarise:

- Carols Service: 17 December at 6pm. Festive market and foodcourt open from 5pm.
- Christmas Services: 24 December at 6pm and 25 December at 8:30am.

## START TALKING

1. What stood out to you from Sunday's message? What challenged you or encouraged you?
2. What has God been doing in your world - what can we celebrate?

## START THINKING

1. How would you explain the message of Romans 8:28 in your own words?
2. Read Romans 8:28. What assumptions did you have about this Scripture that were challenged by Sunday's message?
3. On Sunday, Steve shared that our definition of "the good" differs from God's definition. God's ultimate aim for my life is to make me more like Jesus (Romans 8:29). Did this idea resonate with you or challenge you? In what areas of your life is God transforming you to be more like Jesus?

## START SHARING

1. What difficult trials have you been through? How have you seen God work them for your ultimate good? Share with the group.
2. On Sunday, Steve shared that Jesus is always praying for us at the Father's right hand (Romans 8:34). Is this a new concept for you, or are you familiar with it? How would it impact your life if you lived with a daily awareness of Jesus praying/interceding for you?

## START PRAYING

Lord, You know where each of us is at and in spite of everything we are going through, we know that You are working all things for us who love You and are called according to Your purpose. Thank You, Lord, for the fortress of Romans 8:28. We want to live confident, secure, God-focussed lives. Amen.

## START DOING

This week, commit Romans 8:28 to memory.



This Sunday, Steve shared a challenging message on Romans 8:28.

Throughout human history, humans have longed for safety and security. In medieval times, people built fortresses as places of safety and protection.

Romans 8:28 is a "fortress verse" in the Bible: *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.*

### 1. "Those who love him."

We need to know who this promise applies to! This verse does not apply to those outside of Christ. This verse applies to those who love Christ.

### 2. "... in all things ..."

*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.*  
Romans 8:28.

When the Bible states "all things," it refers to the best and the worst of our lives. Our joys, pain, suffering and hardship. Mistakes we have made and mistakes that others have made. In all of these things, God is working for the good of those who love Him.

### 3. "God works."

*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.*  
Romans 8:28.

God, Who made the stars and the galaxies by speaking them into existence. The One Who rules the world. He alone is Sovereign, Majestic and Glorious. He is All-Powerful, All-Knowing and omnipresent. He is Wise, Gracious, and Kind. That God ... "works for the good".

We should remind ourselves that God owes no man anything. He does not do this work out of any kind of external obligation. His arm is not being twisted in any way. He does it out of His divine compassion and kindness. *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?*  
Romans 8:32

### 4. "for the good."

*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.*  
Romans 8:28

Our version of 'the good' is different to God's version of 'the good'. When we think of 'the good,' we think of our comfort, ease and preferably luxury. Everything in life going our way, being liked by people and options opening up for us, etc.

God's version of 'the good' means "...to be conformed to the image of his Son ..." Romans 8:29, i.e. perseverance, character, godliness and hope. This verse is not to be seen in the short run - some things we may only realise in eternity.

John Piper said: "If you live inside this massive promise, your life is more solid and stable than Mount Everest. Nothing can blow you over when you are inside the walls of Romans 8:28.

Outside Romans 8:28, all is confusion and anxiety and fear and uncertainty. Outside this promise of God's all-encompassing future grace, there are straw houses of drugs and pornography and dozens of futile diversions.

There are slat walls and tin roofs of fragile investment strategies and fleeting insurance coverage and trivial retirement plans. There are cardboard fortifications of deadbolt locks and alarm systems and antiballistic missiles. Outside are a thousand substitutes for Romans 8:28.

Once you walk through the door of love into the massive, unshakable structure of Romans 8:28, everything changes. There comes into your life stability and depth and freedom. You simply can't be blown over anymore.

The confidence that a sovereign God governs for your good all the pain and all the pleasure that you will ever experience is an incomparable refuge and security and hope and power in your life.

When God's people really live by the future grace of Romans 8:28— from measles to the mortuary — they are the freest and strongest and most generous people in the world."

The news gets even better: Romans 8 tells us that Jesus is interceding for us:  
*Christ Jesus ... is at the right hand of God and is also interceding for us.* Romans 8:26,34.

Before we've even prayed for ourselves, Jesus Christ is already interceding for us.  
And long after we have stopped praying, Jesus is still interceding for us.

*God is always at work for our long-term good. 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.* Romans 8:28