

Recap of 7/3/16 (Romans 8:28-39):

1. Of Romans 8:28ff the following is said:

-“This is one of the most magnificent passages in all the Bible.” (Henry Halley)

-“In the last twelve verses of the chapter [Romans 8:28-39] the apostle rises to sublime heights unequalled anywhere in the New Testament.” “On it [Romans 8:28] we have often stayed our troubled hearts and minds. ‘We know that in everything God works for good with those who love Him.’” (John R. W. Stott)

-Perhaps the most beautiful description of the passage is that of R.A. Torrey who called it “A soft pillow for a tired heart.”

2. Romans 8:28-39 teaches that God has an investment in His people and will protect that investment. Though the passage is commonly used to teach the doctrine of Eternal Security (and properly so) for Christians enduring difficult circumstances the passages is also a promise that God will be active making ‘all things’ in their live useful and beneficial to His purposes.

3. “God never promises that we will like the ‘all things’ that happen in our lives. But He does promise that, in His supervision, God will permit nothing to touch those who love Him that cannot be beneficial or useful in their lives. (Richards)

4. Old Testament illustrations of this truth are Jacob (Genesis 42:36) who thought that everything was against Him, when in fact God turned the temporary loss of his son Joseph into the means by which the whole family was preserved, and he received Joseph back in the most unexpected way. Everything was working for his good. A second illustration is Joseph himself, sold into slavery by his brothers, experiencing difficulties and prison in Egypt, he recognized that the difficulties he endured were meant by God for good (Genesis 50:20, “you meant it for evil, God meant it for good”).