

God does the impossible for positive volition (v. 28)

VERSE 28 And we know that God causes all things to work together for good to

those who love God, to those who are called according to His purpose (οἶδαμεν δὲ

ὅτι τοῖς ἀγαπῶσιν τὸν θεὸν πάντα συνεργεῖ εἰς ἀγαθόν, τοῖς κατὰ πρόθεσιν κλητοῖς οὖσιν

[*pf.act.ind.1p. oida know + conj. de + conj. hoti + d.a.w/pres.act.part.dat.m.p. agapao love +*

d.a.w/noun acc.m.s. theos + adj.acc.nt.p. pas “all things” + pres.act.ind.3s. suergeo work

together + prep eis + d.a.w/adj.dat.m.p. kleros called + prep kata + noun acc.f.s. prothesis plan

+ pres.act.part.dat.m.p. eimi “to those who are”]).

ANALYSIS: VERSE 28

1. This is one of the most quoted verses in the WOG.
2. This statement with regard to life experiences applies to those who are aligned with the directive will of God.
3. God oversees our lives to such an extent that “all things”, good and bad, “to work together” for those who are positive to BD.
4. “We know” is something that has been brought to our attention through exposure to the WOG.
5. If something befalls a believer who is adjusted it will contribute to the ultimate good, if the believer is making the maturity adjustment.
6. The caveat is that this only applies “to those who love God.”
7. See Jn. 14:15, 21 & 23 for the definition of one who loves God.
8. “If you love Me, you will keep My commandments.” (Jn. 14:15); and “He who keeps My commandments and keeps them is the one who loves Me; and he who loves Me will be loved by My Father, and I will love him and will disclose Myself to him.” (Jn. 14:21); “Jesus answered and said to him. ‘If anyone loves Me, he will keep My word; and My Father will love him and We will come to him and make our abode with him.’” (Jn. 14:23).
9. It is not that the “all things” have any virtue in and of themselves to work to this end, but that God causes the “all things” to work for the good of those who are committed to God’s plan.
10. A believer cannot love God if he is not committed to the process of growing in grace and knowledge.
11. Our ultimate good is to appear before Christ irreprehensible (Phil 2:15; 1 Thess. 3:13).
12. God takes that bad things and works these for our good.
13. Sufferings produce SG3 and spiritual growth.
14. A notable example of this is that of the patriarch Joseph who as a young man was sold into slavery by his older brothers.
15. Genesis 50:20 declares the principle of Rom. 8:28.
16. Those who are eligible for this blessing of good arising from what is considered bad are describes as “those who are called according to His purpose/plan.
17. This refers to the plan of God from eternity past (cp. Eph. 1:11; 3:11; 2 Tim. 1:9).

18. Those “called” is a title for those who accepted the call to eternal salvation (cp. Rom. 1:6, 7; 1 Cor. 1:2, 24; Jude 1:1; Rev. 17:14).
19. Believers who do not love God based on their rejection of sound doctrine forfeit the implied promise of Rom. 8:28.