

Romans 8
Whoever Said Life Was Fair

Romans 8:17,18, 28

It is the "all things" in 8:28 is what bothers us. "Life is not fair"

"So no man may be disturbed by these afflictions, for you yourselves know that we have been destined for this...we kept telling you this in advance that we were going to suffer affliction, and so it came to pass as you know." (1st Thess. 3:3, 4)

As we approach the escaton of all things we hold dear, we need to be prepared for the suffering that is here now and will increase as the end approaches. However all our suffering is in preparation for our Glory.

Three confusing realities:

1. God is good
2. God is all powerful
3. Evil is real

Seven Classic answers to the problem of pain & suffering:

1. Distinguish the difference between Moral evil & Natural evil.
2. Evil is a mystery we can never really understand. "What will be, will be"
3. Evil is relative= one man's pain is another man's gain
4. Evil is punitive= "God is going to get you for that" See Gal 6:7, 8
5. Suffering is Vicarious= There can be no success with out suffering. If you suffer without success, then it means someone else will succeed because you suffered.
6. Suffering is God's didactic= the teaching principle
7. The Eschatological Principle= Romans 8:28 God has the end is mind, which is your glory!

Paul's teaching:

1. There are no accidents that "happen" to God's children. Vrs.28 "God causes all things..."
2. We are destined to suffer for Christ. Romans 8: 17, 18
Our inheritance includes suffering
1st Thess. 3:4, Phil. 1:29, 30
3. Suffering is connected to God's purpose [Will] Vrs 28]
4. Expect it and you won't be surprised. 1st Thess. 3:4

Whoever said life is fair? It is not fair, it is fallen!

- 1) God's perfect will
- 2) God's permissive will
5. Satan can use suffering to destroy our faith, [see the book of Job]
6. Your faith in the midst of suffering can inspire others. See Job 19: 23, 24= the words written down forever
Faith in what? Faith that God "causes all things" and guides them for our good.
7. Suffering keeps us connected thru prayer and faith. 8:26 When trouble comes we don't even know how to pray!
8. Suffering can bring us to God. See Job 19: 13-20, and 25-27

Romans 8:18= suffering is not worthy to be considered in the same breathe as our coming glory!