

Reflection Questions 5/24/20

1. Why do you think God would subject creation to futility? Had you considered this before?
2. Can you think of a time where God has opened your eyes to a deeper understanding of Him in difficult times?
3. Read Eph. 1:3-6. How do you feel when you read that God chose you in Jesus before the foundation of the world?
4. How does Romans 8:18 encourage you in difficult times?
5. Mediate on the assurance that Romans 8:29-30 + Phil. 1:6 gives to believers. How does that practically lead to joy despite circumstances today?

2020.5.24 Romans 8 Bad->Good,

Many may know, Ravi Zach. Passed away 1st wk. Loved Ravi, how he helped think Christian WV. Did masterfully- help push to logical end beliefs-> how play out. Brilliant thinker, clear, concise. So needed, important- What think will greatly color way see wrld.

Rom. 12:2- ***Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewal of your mind.*** KEY- mind

Today, be in Romans 8, ask you to engage mind (not overly difficult, or heady- huge/vital important truth)

As look at 2nd half Rom 8, Think of a simple outline JE.

1-God Uses it All (even hard/ bad things) 2-NOTHING can separate us from God's love 3-Our Future in Jesus is far more glorious than you can ever imagine.

I. God will use it ALL

A. **World today**, lots of uncertainty. Many hard ssn

1-Jobs, finances, sickness... unknown hard deal w/

B. **God says can and will use it ALL. Rom 8:28..**

1-OBJ- immediately, groan (esp if real hard right now), God works all things for good. (big smile) Well intent

2-v.28 glorious, wonderful truth, but becomes Christian cliché, the balm try cover all, leaves us cold.

3-Doesn't really help in moment, ever feel that? Do?

C. Text helps HOW God working, 8:19-20

1-How truth break into the now? **READ 8:19-20**

2- V. 20 Creation subjected to futility. Mean? Depravity/ frailty. Corrupted, breaking down, (v.21)

3-This is our world today: virus, ugliness, evil, misinformation, death... FUTILITY. Mess...

4-See this b/c sin, rebel vs. God, Go vs. fabric made

5- God says this from beginning- Gen. 3, rebel-> death. + Things harder (relationships, childbirth, jobs)

D. KEY- here 20b Subject to futility in HOPE.

1-Who is Him in v. 20? Gen 3+ here, IN HOPE= God.

2- Look **22-23** Allows us to see look like functioning apart from Him. His mercy to show us ends...

EX. Christmas Carol- Ebenezer Scrooge- gets glimpse of ends of cruelty + Greed. Know story, rouses Him..

God whispers to us in our pleasures, speaks in our conscience, but shouts in our pains: it is His megaphone to rouse a deaf world.

3-God is at work, IN HOPE, uses awaken rescue plan.

4- Much more we could say, he produces humility, refines, teaches, empathy, how to love others...

→ **Ultimately uses all, for our good, alerts us of Deeper longing for Him, the truth of Him.**

II. Nothing can separate us from Love Christ.

1-When things hard, two emotions very prevalent:

Inside of you- I am a mess, God couldn't love me. Outside of you, Life is mess, God has abandoned me, Can't be loving God. Both of those attack...

IN THAT STRUGGLE- Remember heart GOSPEL...

A. **READ 28-30. Leave v.28 alone, miss the whole**

1-God saves sinners, does so by His grace to us.

2-Think(!) about question, how you became believer

3-Well, someone shared w/ me, I realized I am a sinner, that I need Jesus. Put my faith in Him, professed, repented, got baptized in obedience...

4- HOW did that happen? Why ever see that? Heart? Consider that? What was the process- how get there?

5-Tells us here. I just described is our justification, moment we are made right w/ God-> Jesus.

6-Look closely at 29-30- where is justification in the process here? 5 parts here, it's # 4 of 5. How believe?

Foreknew-Predestined-Called-Justified-Glorified

Skip 80% of what it says here. Follow it back. Justified, go back, Called-> justification. Mean? HS moved in your life, for you to be able to see. Eph. **2 But^[b] God, being rich in mercy, because of the great love with which he loved us, ⁵ even when we were dead in our trespasses, made us alive together with Christ—by grace you have been saved...** Spiritually dead, cannot do anything on own, God moves in you HS- death-Life

7- Happens b/c He called. Go back still, only # 3.

8-2nd One? Predestined – Called. EPH. 1. **READ 3-6**

³ Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us in Christ with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places, ⁴ even as he chose us in him before the foundation of the world, that we should be holy and blameless before him. In love ⁵ he predestined us^[b] for adoption to himself as sons through Jesus Christ, according to the purpose of his will, ⁶ to the praise of his glorious grace, with which he has blessed us in the Beloved.

9- He set his affections on you before you were born, before you did anything . Sovereign choice

10- one more step back. He Predestined- Foreknew.

Mean? Foreknew is not just he knew what would happen, but to know is to have an intimate, covenantal knowledge. Two examples, Adam knew Eve.. // Jesus says Mt 7- Will be some that he says depart from me, I never knew you.

Foreknew-Predestined-Called-Justified-Glorified

11- Last step, glorified. Mean? We will be in glory with Jesus, realizing the fullness what we were created be

Phil. 1:6 And I am sure of this, that he who began a good work in you will bring it to completion at the day of Jesus Christ.

Foreknew-Predestined-Called-Justified-Glorified

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Means this: God is faithful, It rests w/ Him. The

Very best in your life, Rel. w/ God-> Jesus, Secure. HE IS FAITHFUL.

No matter what happening READ 37-39

➔ **God Uses it All, even bad. + NOTHING Separate you from love of Jesus.**

III. Future More Glorious Ever Fathom

READ 18,21, 31.

A. God knew our rebellion before creation

1-Why do it? Knew free choice, lead to futility, struggle, hardships, pain, death. All of it...

2- Knew He would sacrifice, humble Himself to save it.

3- What it tells us, is this here. The glory of the fullness of redemption will so dwarf the struggle and hardness of life, you can't even compare.

4- Live in light of these three truths, give us a joy and peace that surpasses all circumstances.