

ENGLISH L-Path Teaching  
December 13, 2020  
35<sup>th</sup> Anniversary

TITLE: TASTED & SEEN

TEXT: Romans 8:28

BIG IDEA: *All things ultimately contribute to the ultimate good of those who love God.*

INTRO:

- Psalm 34:8, *"Taste and see that the Lord is good; blessed is the one who takes refuge in him."*
- Q: **If God is with us, why is all this happening?** Amid the uncertainties we face, amid struggles, let's be encouraged and understand that God is still in control!
- Rom 8:28, is one of those verses that holds you together when it seems like life is trying to pull you apart.
- There are a few verses in the Bible that give you more assurance and hope and faith in God like this, which Paul wrote in the young church in Rome as they prepared for a time of persecution under Nero's emperorship.

## I. THE SANCTIFIED PERSPECTIVE

"And we know..."

### A. The 'WE'

- Paul said, "We know." The identity of 'we' at the beginning of the verse is answered there at the end of the verse. Paul mentioned at the end of the verse, "to those who love God, to those who are called according to His purpose." **Who is that "we" here? They are those who love God and are called according to His purpose.**
- Paul is saying it is not enough that we just say that we love God, but that you have to accept and believe in salvation and new life that is only available through Jesus Christ our Lord and Savior.

### B. To Know Is To See

- The Greek word used by Paul here is Gk. 'Eido,' better translated it as **'to see.'**
- Because 'Eido' knowledge is knowledge that is acquired through observation.
- We know that God is in control.
- **How can I be sure that everything will work together for good?** Because I've seen it before. I saw God answer my prayer.
- He has already shown that He is omnipotent; He showed that He could save you; He can heal you; He can bless you, etc.
- **"Every now and then you've got to remember what God has shown you."**

## II. THE SYNERGY PROCESS

"All things work together..."

- The *danger we face is that we judge the end by the beginning.* But the very opposite is true. *We ought to judge the beginning by the end.*

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- Paul says, “And we know that all things work together for good.” The phrase work together is really one word-*sunergon*-in Greek which means to ‘co-operate.’ We get our English word *synergy* from it. And what is synergy? It is what happens when you put two or more elements together to form something brand new that neither could be formed separately.
- “Christian life is like a puzzle - scattered pieces that seem to be a mess but when put together turn out to be a masterpiece.” – Reggie T. Castaneda
- We must not judge the end by the beginning, but rather the beginning by the end.

### III. THE SATISFACTORY PRODUCT

- Why did I say your life would be a masterpiece? Because of the phrase **“For good...”**
- Good is this Greek word ‘agathos.’ And ‘agathos’ not only means good, ‘agathos’ means **‘beneficial.’**
- **“It doesn’t matter how it starts; all you need to do is put in the hands of God.”**
- Paul defines it for us in the very next verse: **“For those God foreknew he also predestined to be conformed to the likeness of his Son”** -Romans 8:29.
- God has predestined you and me to a certain end and that certain end is the “good” of Romans 8:28 – **to be conformed to the likeness of Jesus Christ.**

**CHALLENGE:** Romans 8:28 is teaching us one great truth: *All things ultimately contribute to the ultimate good of those who love God.* So with this, let’s strive even more to be like Christ!

#### DISCUSSION:

- What have you learned from Romans 8:28?
- How will you apply it in your present circumstances? Share.