

MADRID CHURCH OF CHRIST

SUNDAY, APRIL 16, 2017

2017 ANNUAL THEME:

PUTTING ON THE FULL ARMOR OF GOD



EPHESIANS 6:10-20

"PUT ON THE WHOLE ARMOR OF GOD, THAT YOU MAY BE ABLE TO STAND AGAINST THE SCHEMES OF THE DEVIL" (EPHESIANS 6:11).

TODAY'S SCHEDULE

9AM

11AM

Esther

UNEQUALLY
YOKED

"BE DILIGENT TO PRESENT YOURSELF APPROVED TO GOD AS A WORKMAN WHO DOES NOT NEED TO BE ASHAMED, ACCURATELY HANDLING THE WORD OF TRUTH" (2 TIM. 2:4).

RIPPED OUT OF CONTEXT: ROMANS 8:28

One of the most magnificent promises in the Bible is Romans 8:28, but it is often misunderstood because it is often quoted out of context during tough circumstances. Usually the whole verse is not even quoted. It is usually loosely quoted, “All things work for good.”

The verse is usually taken to be God’s promise to us that everything, no matter how dire the circumstances, is going to turn out all right. For example:

- If I lose my job, it’s okay. God has a better one in store for me;
- If I or my loved ones get sick, it’s okay; God will heal me (or them) because God only wants “good” for me (us);

There are many issues with how the passage is usually quoted. First, the verse is often quoted to show that God has good things in store for everyone, including non-Christians. But when the whole verse is quoted, it shows that the promise is limited in scope to a specific group of people:

“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.”

Whenever verses are taken out of context, it is usually the parts of the verse that are not quoted that give the meaning to the text. In this verse, Paul says that this promise is for “those who love God.” This is not talking about those who have an emotional feeling of love towards God, but those who are His people – those who obey Him (John 14:15). Paul shows this in this passage by clarifying that those who love God are also those who “are called according to His purpose.” This promise of Romans 8:28 is given to Christians, those who have answered God’s call to submit to Christ.

The second way that Romans 8:28 is misused is by assuming that the “good” that God causes to come about is physical things such as good health, a better job, etc. The context does not bear this out. The context actually shows the OPPOSITE! The focus of the second half of Romans 8 is that God’s people must suffer before receiving their reward. In verse 17, Paul says that we are “heirs of God and fellow heirs with Christ, provided we suffer with him **in order that** we may also be glorified with him.” The rest of the chapter shows how God is working in us *while we suffer* to prepare us for glory and to help us anticipate the time when our bodies will be redeemed (v23). We also see how God’s Spirit helps us during this process (vs26-27). We see in these things that suffering is part of God’s plan, and it may **not** be the case that the ‘good’ that God is working towards is the alleviation of suffering in THIS life. In verses 29-30, we see the end-game/good that God has in mind in verse 28.

“**For** those whom he foreknew he also predestined to be conformed to the image of his Son, **in order that** he might be the firstborn among many brothers.³⁰ And those whom he predestined he also called, and those whom he called he also justified, and those whom he justified he also glorified.”

What is the ‘good’ that God is working towards?

- He is working in us to make us like Jesus.
- He is working to magnify Christ through us, showing Him to be the preeminent one among His fellow heirs.
- He is working in us so that we can receive what He has predestined for His people: glorification.

Whenever we take this promise out of context, we are missing a great promise of what God is doing within us during hardship. We tend to look at hardship as “bad” or “evil.” Suffering is not a bad thing. Even though Satan may try to use it to discourage us and lead us to doubt God’s promises, God has **good** that He is working towards in the same circumstances. God is “for us” (Romans 9:1) even during hardship. He loves us and is working in us.

VISITORS:

THANK YOU FOR COMING TODAY!

If you are visiting with us and have any questions about what you have seen or heard today, please fill out a visitor's card or contact us using the information below. We would be happy to schedule a time to sit down with you and to answer your questions from God's word.

Call or text Jason @ 412-999-4837 or email him @
preacher@madridchurch.com

UPCOMING EVENTS:

- 04/30 – Invite Sunday (*Lesson: The Greatest News Possible, Pt2, Jesus Died for Our Sins*)
- 05/02 – Song Service @ 9AM
- 05/05 - 6:30-9:30pm - Board & Brush Family painting get-together – \$65/person (questions - contact Jen Williams)
www.boardandbrush.com/clive/events/church-christ-girls-outing-private-event

If there is an event you are planning that you want put in the bulletin, let Jason know!

DAILY READING:

- 04/17 – 2 Kings 23-25; Psalm 108
- 04/18 – Isaiah 1-4; Psalm 109
- 04/19 – Isaiah 5-8; Psalm 110
- 04/20 – Isaiah 9-12; Psalm 111
- 04/21 – Isaiah 13-17; Psalm 112
- 04/22 – Isaiah 18-22; Psalm 113
- 04/23 – Isaiah 23-27; Psalm 114



"Your word is a lamp to my feet and a light to my path."

-Psalm 119:105