

# The Godly Man's Portion & Sanctuary

## Lesson 5: All Things Will Work for Good to Them that Love God

Because Rom 8.28 is such a great encouragement to godliness in all conditions, we need to consider several points concerning it: 1) what things are included in "all things," 2) what the "good" is toward which all things must work, 3) to whom all things will work for good, 4) how all things will work for their good, 5) that all things will undoubtedly work for good to them that love God.

- I. All things *will undoubtedly work for good* to them that love God. Besides the testimony of Rom 8.28, we can prove this by the following propositions.
  - A. There is a divine providence that governs the world, Ps 17.13-14; 36.6; 67.15-16; 75.6-7; 97.1; Dan 4.35; 6.26-27.
    1. God governs all inanimate creatures and orders all their actions, Job 38.22-30.
    2. God governs all the men of this world, ordering all their decrees, Isa 10.5-7, ruling all changes in times and seasons, kingdoms and governments, Gen 8.22; Jer 1.15; Hag 2.22; 1Kgs 22.34.
    3. God orders all the events and calamities of this world, from the smallest to the greatest, Mt 10.29. To God, there are no contingencies. All things come to pass according to His eternal decree, Eph 1.11.
  - B. The design of providence, as it respects the elect, is the accomplishment of the good purpose of God for them and the good promise of God to them.
    1. His *providence* governs the world and His *purpose and promise* govern His providence.
    2. This means He does nothing in vain or for no reason, but according to a holy and wise purpose. He would have His people look beyond the things that are before them because all those things have a reason beyond themselves.
    3. In other words, all the works of providence have a double aspect to them. They look *backward* to the purpose and promise and *forward* to the end which occasions them. As they look backward, they have truth in them, exactly answering the purpose and promise of God (He's doing exactly what He decreed and promised to do); and as they look forward to their end, they have good in them, and that good which they serve is the reason for their being, for without it, they would never be. –Two things to note here are:
      - a) The subservience of things to their end is the goodness of them. If the end they serve is good, then the means to it must be relatively good as well.
        - (1) For example, if our crosses and afflictions serve to bring about God's good will and good word, then we must say concerning them that *they are good*. It's not how anything looks or feels at present, but what it's working for us and the end toward which it's working that makes it good. Poison is bad in itself, but if it works for our health, then it's good for us, Heb 12.10-11.
        - (2) And thus all the providences of God are good in this way. If you should ask of any providence, "*Why have you come? Have you come peaceably? Have you come to do me good?*" They would all have to answer, "*Yes! I come peaceably, to do you good and no hurt at all. I come to help bring all that good into your hand which has been in the heart and proceeded out of the mouth of your God who loves you.*"
        - (3) There's not a single messenger of Satan that comes to buffet you, but it's also a messenger of God that comes to do you good. Under the rule of God's providence, the very thorns in your flesh will serve as bandages to deeper wounds, your eye sores will be as eye-salve to you, and your maladies will serve as your medicines.

- b) This relative goodness of all the works of providence is the reason for their being. Therefore God does what He does in our lives in order that He may do what He has said and intended. In other words, God's providence in our lives is ordered in such a way that He may fulfill His promises to us and accomplish His decree concerning us. So that the reason things are the way they are in our lives and not another way), is because it pleased Him to use these particular providences (and no others) to bring His good will for us to pass.
- 4. Knowing and believing this gives us all we need to take off the grievousness and sharpness of our circumstances. What we're going through had never come about, but for the good will and good word of the Lord to us. "The Lord God said He would bless me and do me good; He said He would heal me and sanctify me, and save me and conform me to my Saviour's image; and now that's exactly what He's doing. By this very providence He's working that salvation for me which He promised to me."
  - a) As believers, we have no reason to say, "If the Lord is with me and for me, then why is this happening to me? Why am I so poor? Why am I in so much pain? Why am I persecuted? Why am I scorned and trampled upon? For surely, if the Lord had my good in mind, it'd be better with me than this." No. It's because the Lord is with you and means to do you good that He deals with you exactly as He does. *The design of His providence toward you is the accomplishment of His purpose for you and His promise to you,* Heb 12.10-11.
- C. The providence of God shall never fail of accomplishing its end. *Next week.*