

Everything Happens for a Reason

10 Dumb Things Smart Christians Believe, Part 6

July 9th, 2017

Simple advice for helping those going through difficult times: **WEEP** with those who **WEEP**
Romans 12:15 (NAS) “Rejoice with those who rejoice, and weep with those who weep.”

No matter what happens, God is in **CONTROL**. He’s **KING** of the universe, and He’s **GOOD**

- That doesn’t mean God is the direct **CAUSE** of everything that happens
- That doesn’t mean that everything that happens is something He **WANTS** to happen
- That doesn’t mean that everything He allows is **GOOD**

Each person bears full responsibility for their actions

Genesis 3:12 (NIV) “The man said, ‘The woman You put here with me – she gave me some fruit from the tree, and I ate it.’”

What Does Romans 8:28 Actually Say?

Romans 8:28 (KJ) “And we know that all things work together for good to them that love God, to them who are the called according to His purpose.”

The verse seems to imply that **EVERYTHING** that happens is a part of God’s greater plan; that life is like a giant jigsaw puzzle that will make **SENSE** once all the other pieces are in place

Romans 8:28 (NIV) “And we know that in all things God works for the good of those who love Him, who have been called according to His purpose.”

The verse **DOES NOT** say that everything that happens is good; it simply states that God is **AT WORK** in all things

Notice this verse is not a promise for everyone (not even all Christians), but for the person who **LOVES** God and has been called according to His **PURPOSE**

According to Scripture those who love God are those who **OBEY** His commands; those who are called according to His purpose are those who have become **FOLLOWERS** of Jesus

John 14:15 (NIV) “[Jesus said] If you love Me, you will obey what I command.”

Romans 1:6-7 (NCV) “And you who are in Rome are also called to belong to Jesus Christ. To all of you in Rome whom God loves and has called to be His holy people.”

The beauty & promise of Romans 8:28 is that no matter how bad things may get, God’s **ULTIMATE** & **ETERNAL** purpose won’t be foiled for the Christian who obeys God’s commands & follows Christ

Don’t Blame God

Those who assume that everything that happens has God’s fingerprints all over it, fail to distinguish between what God **ALLOWS** and what God **CAUSES** – what God permits and what God prefers

The Bible is clear there are times where the dark trials of our lives have **NOTHING** to do with God’s wonderful plans for our lives

- **SELF-INFLICTED** Wounds

Sometimes the trials & hardships we face are the results of **SINFUL** choices. That’s not **GOD’S** doing; that’s **OUR** doing

- Life in a **FALLEN** World

Bad people do bad things and **GOOD** people get hurt; don’t forget Mother Nature & Murphy’s Law

When it comes to the consequences of the fall, we aren’t offered **IMMUNITY** but **ETERNITY**

- **FOOLISH** Decisions
Proverbs 19:3 (GN) “Some people ruin themselves by their own stupid actions and then blame the Lord.”
God promises to continue working for our **ETERNAL** good no matter how many dimwitted judgments we make along the way

Why This Is So Important

- **ANGER** at God
When we proclaim God as the direct cause of everything that happens, we unintentionally hand the **ENEMY** some powerful ammo
- Glossing Over **SIN**
There is not much reason to **FEAR** sin or its consequences if everything comes out ok
- **IRRESPONSIBILITY**
Some people take ridiculous risks and label it as a “**STEP OF FAITH**”
Proverbs 22:3 (NCV) “The wise see danger ahead and avoid it, but fools keep going and get into trouble.”
- **MISPLACED** Hope
Some mistakenly base their hope on a miracle they will probably **NEVER** see instead of an eternal inheritance followers of Christ are **GUARANTEED** to see
John 14:3 (NIV) “[Jesus said] And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come back and take you to be with me that you also may be where I am.”

Can a Bad Thing Ever Be a Good Thing?

There are situations where God takes something **BAD** and uses it to produce something **GOOD**
Genesis 50:20 (NIV) “[Joseph said to his brothers] You intended to harm me, but God intended it for good to accomplish what is now being done, the saving of many lives.”

It is nearly **IMPOSSIBLE** for us to tell which events will be rewarded in this life or in eternity

Every trial or hardship calls for the same response: **OBEDIENCE**; we are to do the **RIGHT** thing no matter the outcome

God delays His return and shutting down evil in order to allow more of His former enemies to become His **FRIENDS** and part of His **FAMILY**

1 Peter 3:9 (NIV) “The Lord is not slow in keeping His promise, as some understand slowness. Instead He is patient with you, not wanting anyone to perish, but everyone to come to repentance.”

God **HASN'T** promised that everything will always “work out” in this life. But He promised that, no matter what happens, He will never **LEAVE** nor **FORSAKE US**

Hebrews 13:5 (NIV) “Keep your lives free from the love of money and be content with what you have, because God has said, ‘Never will I leave you; never will I forsake you.’”

In Romans 8:28 God also promised that no matter what life or the enemy might throw our way, God’s good and eternal purposes can **NEVER** be thwarted

When people say things to try and comfort or encourage you, see the **INTENT** behind it

My Next Step Today Is:

- If there are people in my life whom I believe I need to judge, I will do so but by God’s guidelines
- I am interested in taking “Financial Peace University” beginning Tuesday, Aug. 1st at 6:30 pm (*flyer available*)
- I am interested in joining the “Starting Point” class beginning Thursday, July 27th at 6:30 pm

Next week: Join us as we explore **Dumb Mistake #7: Let Your Conscience Be Your Guide.** Bring a friend!

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