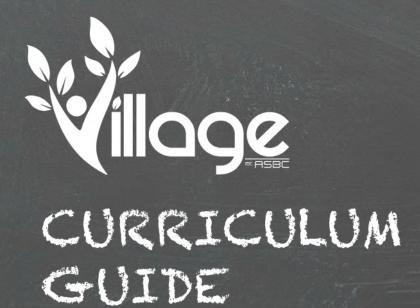


Sunday, October 25, 2020

Preacher: Pastor Howard-John Wesley

Sermon: I'm Good

Scripture: Romans 8:28 (NIV)



Sermon Summary

In the seventh installment of the Romans 8 series, More Than a Conqueror, Pastor Wesley explores a verse that anchors the entire chapter. He goes on to say that there are very few verses in the Bible that compare with the assurance of Romans 8:28.

Pastor Wesley asks the question, "Who are the we?" According to Paul, the we are:

- 1. Those who love God (Deuteronomy 6:4-9, Shema)
- 2. Those called according to His purpose. (Belief in Jesus Christ)

Paul wants us to know that to love God is more than an outward expression or "lip service," but we must believe in our hearts and align ourselves with God in Jesus Christ.

Key Points:

So what do we know?

- 1. We know that we are assured of what is seen.
- 2. We know that God works for our "agathos" or our good.
- 3. We know that God needs time to work things for our good according to His purpose.
- 4. We know that God works all things together for good. Our pain, struggles and trials.

Joy + Pain + Grace + Favor + Struggles + Blessings = I'M GOOD!

GOD working



Notes for Facilitators:

Thanks for all that you do! Don't forget to be mindful of our new 75-minute gathering time frame. Also be sure to save time for your Village to share prayer requests.

Getting To Know You Questions:

- 1. Do you have a special dish that you like to prepare? If so, what makes it special?
- 2. Pastor Wesley shared that he has enjoyed cooking for his family during the pandemic. What is something that you find yourself doing more of since the pandemic? Have you enjoyed doing anything for others?



In the sermon, an equation was provided for how God works together for our good. Read and discuss these and other verses as a group:

Joy - Romans 15:13 Pain - Revelation 21:4 Grace - 1 Peter 5:10 Favor - Psalm 90:17 Struggles - Joshua 1:9

Life Application Questions:

- 1. Pastor Wesley states in his sermon, "Romans 8:28 is not a promise, but it is a testimony!" What is your testimony? What experiences can you remember where you have seen God do good things (i.e., beneficial things) in your life?
- 2. Pastor Wesley said, "Anybody can bring good out of good, but it takes God to bring good out of bad." How would you share this with someone who needs to be pointed to God in their season of struggle or difficult circumstances?
- 3. The upcoming election has been a source of anxiety and frustration for many people. The election will result in one outcome and unfortunately there are no guarantees. Regardless of the scenario, if we are living by Romans 8:28, we know that as believers, "I'm Good!" Discuss how God could make either scenario or election result work for our good.



Pastor Wesley declared that being part of the "we" means that we align ourselves with God in Jesus Christ. Review the following as a diagnostic tool for a personal and perhaps overdue Romans 8:28 spiritual alignment. To align with God means to adapt, adjust, amend, attune, change, conform, correct, improve, line up, join with, realign, or fall in line. Select the adjustments that you need to make. Recall what you have seen God do in your life in the past to help maintain the adjustments.

Activity:

Throughout scripture, we see God's assurances or promises to believers. Which promises of God have most aligned with Romans 8:28 for you during quarantine? Take five minutes to write them on a Post-It. Ask each person to share at least 1 promise with the group. After Village, members can place the Post-It in their homes to help encourage them throughout the week.



Spirit Work:

- 1. Pastor Wesley explains that the NIV translators of Romans 8:28 inserted "God" in the scripture to identify the subject of the verb "works" so we remember that it is God alone who causes all things to eventually come together for our good or what is beneficial for our lives and the lives of others. Read about someone in the Bible for whom God used their struggles and circumstances into (eis) good.
- 2. Psalm 95:1 says, "Come, let us sing for joy to the LORD; let us shout aloud to the Rock of our salvation." This week we have included several links to praise and worship music to uplift our souls and keep our minds focused on the goodness of our God during this challenging season.

Add to Your Playlist for This Week:

For the Good of Them: https://youtu.be/26fyLXPA45A

Intentional: https://youtu.be/62QaDYwBHHI

It's Working: https://youtu.be/PPO4B5H4qa8

My Soul Has Been Anchored: https://youtu.be/RHba5GOxNM0

Readings for This Week:

| Monday, October 26th | Romans 8:28 (NRSV, KJV, NKJV, Message) |
|-------------------------|--|
| Tuesday, October 27th | John 10:7-10 |
| Wednesday, October 28th | Deuteronomy 6:4-9 |
| Thursday, October 29th | Ephesians 6:12 |
| Friday, October 30th | <u>Isaiah 38:17</u> |

Further Study:

The "Shema" is a Jewish prayer and is also the first two words of a section of the Torah. Spend some time researching this ancient prayer.