

# MIXING UP A BATTER OF BLESSINGS or "ALL THINGS"

**TEXT:** Romans 8:28

**INTRO.:** A. The Bible speaks of the "ALL THINGS" of creation in Jn. 1:3; the "ALL THINGS" of re-generation in 1 Cor. 5:17; the "ALL THINGS" of Christ's preeminence in the believer's life, etc.

B. But the "ALL THINGS" of our text is one of the most precious promises in all of the Word of God and should be claimed and personalized by the believer. **"for ME!"**

C. Rom. 8:28 is NOT conditional – except that you must be saved. You can be a failure and as a believer and claim this promise! All believers are being conformed to the image of God's Son and that is the context of this promise in v.29.

**ILLUS.:** Dr. Jack Hyles used to use this illustration and would ask "How many like flour? Raw eggs? Bakers Chocolate? Shortening? How many like Chocolate Cake?!" None of the ingredients for Chocolate Cake are very appetizing but when they are mixed together and baked they are the "all things" which make a delicious Choc. Cake!

But those individual bitter ingredients are like the unpleasant and bitter experiences of life. So cheer up! God is **MIXING UP A BATTER OF BLESSINGS** for you and after baking the negative and bitter circumstances and turning up the heat of the oven of life He will turn them into something "for good" for you when the process is complete. Let's take some bitter ingredients and test them...

## I. DESERTION:

A. The Text Doesn't Say: **"All things work for good..."**

1. The word **"together"** is the key.

**ILLUS.:** I was watching Andre Reiu recently and listening to the orchestra tune up before the performance of classical and semi-classical music. It was a cacophony of noise! But when the brass, strings, wind instruments and percussion played together the finished pieces, there was sweet harmony. **"Together for good"** - not separately.

2. Individual trials or experiences are in fact sometimes hurtful and negative, but **"together"** God is working them to our good.

B. The Text Doesn't Say: **"...so you THINK they are good"**

**ILLUS.:** It is never pleasant or fun to be deserted or unpopular. Friends, husband, wife or parents may desert you. **Cf. Ps. 27:10** **"When my father and my mother forsake me, then the Lord will take me up."** Teens may be unpopular and bullied. Remember **"ALL THINGS!"**

C. The Text Doesn't Say: **"...all things MIGHT work together"**

**ILLUS.:** Paul's friends deserted him when he was imprisoned, but he penned our text. John was completely alone on Patmos & there received the Revelation of future events. Joseph's brothers deserted him **"...but God meant it for GOOD!"**

D. The Text Doesn't Say: **"SHALL (future) work together..."**

1. Both verbs **"work & love"** are in the present tense.
2. We **love** now and God is **working** now.

## II. DISEASE (OR DISABILITY) v.18, 2 Cor. 12:5,9,10

A. The Text Doesn't Say **"...all things EXCEPT DISEASE"**

**NOTE:** The words **"ALL THINGS"** in the original Greek says **"ALL THINGS!"** (Except in the new versions: "God works all things for good..." or "in everything God works for good" or in the NIV "in all things God works for the good of those..." That's no promise!) No...**DARK** things, **BRIGHT** things, **HAPPY** things, **SAD** things, **SWEET** things, **BITTER** things, **PROSPERITY**, **ADVERSITY...ALL THINGS!!!!**

B. The Text Doesn't Say **"MANY THINGS, BUT NOT DISABILITY"**

**NOTE:** Some of us need to learn our frailty and lose our pride! We are dying and we will die of something! (Like the man who asked if his friend's dog was a thoroughbred. He replied: "He's so thoroughbred, if he could talk, he wouldn't speak to either one of us.)

**ILLUS.:** At the end of WW2 a son called home and told his parents he would be bringing a severely wounded buddy who had lost both of his legs home with him and asked them if it would be O.K. He said that he needed a place where someone would love him and take care of him. They said *"Of course he could stay for a short period of time...but he would need professional help and could not stay indefinitely. And since he is helpless, he will have to go somewhere after a while. We couldn't afford to put up with..."* And the phone went dead.

A couple of days later they got a phone call from police from the city where their son was in staying informing them that he had committed suicide by hurtling himself out a 12 story hotel window. They travelled with broken hearts to prepare for the funeral. When they arrived they looked into the casket and saw their son for the first time since the war had ended. Both his legs had been amputated at the hip.

Perhaps we could not or would not be able to view this as a part of God's **"all things"** but for the believer God says **ALL THINGS!**

### **III. DIVORCE: "...forgetting those things which are behind" Phil. 3:13,14**

**ILLUS.:** Today 1 of every 2 marriages + end in divorce. *(Of course these statistics never include those who simply live together for a time and then abandon their partner!)* A Southern young man stood before a Judge for leaving his wife and the young man said, *"If y'all knew dat woman like I does, y'all wouldn't call me no deserter...I'se a refugee!"*

A. **"We Know..."** no such thing as fate or chance!

1. God will work even that which He doesn't promote or condone to our good & His glory.
2. We cannot change our past – we must love God & let Him workout the tangled details of our lives.

B. **"We Know..."** no such thing as accidents in the believer's life!

**ILLUS.:** A cowboy applied for insurance. "Ever had an accident?" "Nope!" But a bronc kicked me and broke 2 ribs, and a rattlesnake bit me on the leg." "Wouldn't you call those accidents?" "Nope! They did it on purpose."

It all depends on how you look at it. From God's viewpoint, there are no accidents in the believers life.

### **IV. DEATH:**

A. Even Death? AMEN!

1. Hawk's Bus Barn...Milacci's Bibles, Piechota's life and blessing, and Shirley's (my wife) testimony and talent & many more whose deaths were a blessing and a testimony and a legacy to God's grace.
2. These people all gave to God's work when they died! They are still producing souls, blessings and encouragement to many.

B. Especially Death! AMEN!

1. When a believer dies it is all gain, not loss.
2. Death makes us face life's reality.
3. Death can result in the salvation of loved ones.
4. Death causes us to long to be with our loved ones!

**NOTE:** Of course I want to see my Savior...but I also want to see my wife and my son! I miss them so much. I just found a poem my wife left for me to apparently read at her memorial! I read it through a flood of tears and just wanted to see her and thank her for her love, devotion, ministry, testimony and life of service.

**CONCL.:** We could continue to add to these 4 D's (**DISERTION, DISEASE, DIVORCE & DEATH**) others like **disappointment, discouragement, deprivation, detours, dangers, distress, etc.** But all are included in the **"ALL THINGS"** of Romans 8:28.

**What a promise! What a blessing! What a Savior! (Do YOU know Him?)**

