

Church Office

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Meeting location

Marshall Middle School

25 S. Pontiac, Janesville

Pastor:

John Swanson

*Declaring the greatness of God and serving
others for joy and His honor (II Cor. 4:5)*



April 29, 1999

Dear «Greeting»,

Recently I've been thinking about Romans 8:28, "*For we know that in all things God works for the good of those who love Him, who have been called according to His purpose.*" This is one of the most breathtaking promises of the Bible. Every event – every trouble, every happiness – everything, the Sovereign and loving God is using for the good of all those who belong to Him.

What I've been thinking about is this, if I really believe this promise to apply to me, then I will be a far more patient and peaceful person. Instead of being angry when the light takes too long or when one of my children breaks a tool or the car starts to sound funny, I will be able to rest in the assurance that even this thing God is working for my good.

The good He is working, according to v. 29, is to make me into the image of His Son. Now, the question is, do I want to be like Jesus? If the answer is yes (If I am a Christian, there can be no greater happiness than to be like my Savior!), then this promise (v. 28) is one of the strongest possible antidotes to worry, anger, self-pity and a host of other God-dishonoring sins in my life.

This verse is most often used when the really major tragedies of life occur. This is right to do. However, God means this promise for my growth in daily holiness, also. If I will learn to hold fast to this mountainous promise each day, then I will be able to patiently endure all the irritants and disappointments that God sends into my life. I will be able to do this because I will live in the certainty that the God who gave his Son for me is causing each event in my life to produce a better future for me than I would have without it.

Paul begins this incredible statement with this assertion, "For we know..." Here is where the rubber meets the road in our lives. The "knowing" that Paul is describing is not a mere intellectual assent but a deep, abiding confidence that this is indeed how reality works. For all those whom God has called into His family and who, therefore, love Him, he is working everything for good. Do you know that this is true for you? What circumstance of life do you need to apply this promise to right now? I'll be praying for you to discover the hope and joy and peace that God wants to give you through your faith in this promise. Please pray the same for me and others in our church as well.

Trusting His promises,

P.S. We have a lot planned for May. Each of the events are designed to help us fulfill our purpose and our mission. Whether the focus is on developing our relationships with one another (Scavenger Hunt & Dinner on 5/2 and All Guy's canoe trip on 5/22) or serving our community (Camden Yard clean up on 5/8) or motivating and equipping our parents to train their children (Parenting on Purpose on 5/16), all of it is to help us be a church that displays the greatness of God by declaring His greatness and serving others for joy and His honor.