

What We Know Gives Us Hope

Introduction

- In this context, Paul is addressing Christians that are suffering. Suffering began after Adam & Eve sinned. All of creation now survives in difficulty waiting for Jesus to return & restore heaven & earth (v. 18-25). Paul writes to give understanding, hope & encouragement while we are waiting.
- The HS helps us in prayer while we are waiting (v. 26-27)
- God is also actively involved & working in all the activities & events of our lives to encourage us while we are waiting (v. 28)

I. Who Has This Knowledge (We)?

A. Those who love

“ἀγαπάω” means to have a sincere appreciation & high regard for someone; a **special devotion & sacrificial dedication** to someone. This means loving, obeying, serving & praying for someone reveals biblical love (Jn. 14:15; Mt. 6:24; 5:44). Everyone that loves **must be** born again or born of God (1Jn. 4:7-8) = Christian!

B. Those who love God

God is & must continue to be the primary object of our love (Father, Son & HS) = **WE**. Loving God is the first & great commandment (Mt. 22:37). We love God because He first loved us (1Jn. 4:19). **Our special devotion & sacrificial dedication is to God first!**

II. What Does “Know” Mean?

A. In context

“οἶδα” means to have knowledge by perception or to be acquainted by experience as a fact. This is a well know fact that is accepted. This word expresses absolute certainty & brings confidence, hope, expectation, anticipation & joy regarding our future. **We know = no doubt!**

B. Illustration

“I know that all things were created by God (except God Himself).” “I know that Jesus is the only Son of God & Savior of sinners.” “I know that every person will die & give an account to God in judgment.”

III. What Do We Know?

A. All things

“πάντα” means every kind or variety. This includes every detail of life but **emphasizes** suffering, failure, disaster, sickness & death because it’s difficult to understand why... (v. 35-39). This includes success, healing, deliverance, etc.

B. Work together

“συνεργέω” means to co-operate; engage in activity.

There are **no isolated events**, luck, chance or accidents – timing of birth, salvation, promotion, termination, pregnancy, illness, debt, slander, rejection, etc. **All events of our lives co-operate with God’s plans & purposes for us!**

C. Good

“ἀγαθός” means useful or beneficial. This means ultimately it will be beneficial – because nothing is impossible with God (Lk. 1:37). This also means that future glory outshines present suffering (Rom. 8:18). We may not see the benefit until we get to new heaven & earth, but we must trust God!

IV. Who Has This Promise?

A. Called

Every sinner is generally called by God to repent (Mt. 22:14; Ac. 17:30). However some sinners (chosen, elect) hear the call of God & respond in repentance & faith (Rom. 1:6-7). **If you are a Christian, you heard & answered this call one day in your past...**

B. According to His purpose

This is the purpose for which God’s save every believer. God has a specific & special plan & purpose for each one of us, even unbelievers (Pr. 16:4). God uses all of the events in our live to help us discover His purpose for us [ultimately to become like Jesus in our character, attitude & actions (Rom. 8:29)]. Trust the Lord in your sufferings, misery, pain, trial & test because He has all wisdom & power to cause **everything to work for your good!**

CONCLUSION

So then by brothers & sisters our hope is based on what we know to be true. We know that all things work together for good to those who love God & are called according to His purpose. But we would not love God or be called according to His purpose unless Jesus died for our sins. Jesus would not have died if He had not lived & He would not have lived unless He was born. And He would not have been born unless God so loved the world that He gave His only & unique Son that whoever....

And during this season & time of year we remember that Jesus was born. We do not know exactly what day of the month that He was born, but we know for a fact that He was born. So our hope is based person & work of Jesus. Through Him & because of Him God is working all things together for our good!

So the question is, "Do you know Him?" If you do, then consider all joy as you encounter the various trials of life... because you know the outcome! **If you do not know Jesus, then I offer real, genuine & eternal HOPE to you today...**

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