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*Bible Doctrine Presented in Visual Format*

ALL THINGS WORK TOGETHER  
FOR COMMITTED BELIEVERS

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## All Things Work Together for Committed Believers

Verse	Term	Explanation	Additional Notes
Romans 8: 28	know εἶδω	"Know" here can be literal or figurative; to see, understand, perceive or be sure <sup>1</sup> . With so many challenges in life, believers need to grasp the content in this verse and to know it. With God being an omnipotent God, he is very capable of turning even the worst of situations into something good. Somethings are easier to understand (Matt 7:11), while other things are just more complicated (Matt 13:11).	Believers need to be encouraged to understand grace and the blessings of God. This invaluable knowledge would be limited to the godly who are in Christ.
	all things πᾶς	"All things" would include mistakes in life and even sin, even though there are some who would argue against this. Does this give a believer a license to sin? No Way! Important: "all things" does not indicate that everything has been ordained by God. However, once a bad thing has happened, God can find a way to turn it into something good—for those who love him.	The focus on Rom 8:28 is not limited to excusing sin. Rahab's lie wasn't excused (Josh 2:4), but God still blessed her service in helping the spies.
	work together συνεργέω	The original term refers to co-workers working together <sup>2</sup> . However, in this context, working together refers to all the various aspects in life, which only an omnipotent God could bring together. Things working together also helps us to put more trust in God. And we should know that "working together" does not necessarily mean that material wealth is coming.	It would be a complete disaster for mankind to attempt to make everything work together.
	Verse Explained: This verse is only directed at those who are saved. It is easy to use the content in this verse for anyone. Going to hell isn't just going to work together for good for those in hell.		The lost man's success (Ps 73:12), eventually runs out (Ps 37:17).
Core Principle: What is the key to attaining these benefits? Getting saved, loving God, and serving him whole-heartedly afterwards.			

<sup>1</sup> Strong  
<sup>2</sup> Thayer

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Illustration Type	Illustrations with Explanations	Additional Notes or Stories
Different Types of Situations	God will use the wrath of man for his own good (Ps 76:10). When he's done with the angry man, God will get in the way of that man's anger. The prodigal son understood his father's love after returning home. Being chastised can forever brand a lesson on the heart of a believer. The depth of the wisdom of God is too deep for mankind to fathom.	After the holocaust, the world realized the Jews needed their own land. It's darkest before dawn.
When a Believer Sins	The scriptures never encourage anyone to sin, but only an omnipotent and omniscient God could turn sin (II Sam 11) into something beneficiary (Mat 1:6). King David's sin of numbering the people (I Chron 27:23-24) led to the spot (II Sam 24:18-25) where the temple would be built (II Chron 3:1).	Solomon ended up authoring three books in the Bible: Proverbs, Ecclesiastes & Song of Solomon.
Persecution	The churches in Jerusalem being persecuted caused the believers to scatter throughout the land (Acts 8:1-3). Instead of complaining about the situation, they preached the gospel everywhere they went (Acts 8:4).	Since 2014, the church in Syria has exploded, persecution being the major element.
When Accidents Happen	Amy Carmichael was a missionary for 50 years without a furlough. After an accident left her crippled, she had time to write <sup>3</sup> . Beethoven becoming deaf afforded him time to compose and bless the world with classical music.	A son, who had his life spared at age six by his dad, butchered his entire family at age nineteen <sup>6</sup> . Had his life not been spared at age six, it would have been easy to ask God, "Why did you let him die at age six?"
Difficult Situations	At 30, the doctor told Hudson Taylor his health was too bad to return to China. Hudson returned to China and lived until age seventy <sup>4</sup> . Martin Luther thought many times that that day he'd be a martyr, but he lived until age sixty-two <sup>5</sup> .	
When Making Mistakes	Sometimes our thinking is simply wrong. Other times it's the right plan with a wrong mindset or motive. God is able to work out anything for good.	

Core Principle: Loving the Lord isn't a suggestion in making this verse work for you. It's an absolute must!

<sup>3</sup> Wikipedia

<sup>4</sup> Ibid

<sup>5</sup> Ibid

<sup>6</sup> Illustration from Youtube Channel "Behind Mansion Walls"

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Verse	Word	Explanation	Additional Notes
Romans 8: 28	Loving God	Someone who isn't saved is unable to love the Lord. The context of loving the Lord in Rom 8:28 speaks to committed Christians. For the committed believer, at times, tribulation will even be construed a blessing <sup>7</sup> . Love does need to come from the heart (Deut 30:6), and the Lord looks upon the heart (I Sam 16:7). Even with right deeds, the heart needs to be in the right place.	Hating God is a very, serious sin (Ex 20:5). To love the Lord is the first commandment, and loving the Lord is a win-win situation (Ps 34:8; 84:10-11).
	good ἀγαθός	This "good" also speaks of eternal good <sup>8</sup> as it pertains to righteousness, and not just for our good on earth, but also for God's good <sup>9</sup> . While one commentator says that this good can't refer to material possessions <sup>10</sup> , there most certainly are times when this "good" does pertain to the physical world, and it would at times refer to having a happy heart <sup>11</sup> . Furthermore, all sorts of evil will not lead to the good that people look for <sup>12</sup> .	The good in Rom 8:28 sometimes will include suffering, but it is for our good. God used the actions of Joseph's brothers for his own good (Gen 50:20).
	called τοῖς κλητοῖς	One commentator defines "τοῖς κλητοῖς" as "the invited ones." <sup>13</sup> So, you can say that this verse addresses those who were invited by God to be saved and to love and serve him. The greatest privilege on this side of eternity is to be saved. You can not lose by going all out for the Lord!	Those who have really been saved were also called (Rev 17:14).
	More Explanation on the Verse: Whether in poverty, in wealth, in happiness or suffering, God is a God who can take struggles and turn them into something good <sup>14</sup> . Only an infinite, wise God could do such things. From our perspective, actively expressing and displaying your love for the Lord is the main ingredient in this verse. Believers are not to take advantage of this verse by living their lives as they please. Love the Lord wholeheartedly.		It's a fact that election exists (Acts 13:48). The modern Messianic Jewish movement and the lack of the tribe of Dan in Rev 7 are prime examples.
[Gen 50:20 But as for you, ye thought evil against me; <i>but</i> God meant it unto good . . .]			

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<sup>7</sup> Barnes in Esword

<sup>8</sup> John Wesley in Esword

<sup>9</sup> David Guzik in Esword

<sup>10</sup> Sermon Bible in Esword

<sup>11</sup> Barnes in Esword

<sup>12</sup> Sermon Bible in Esword

<sup>13</sup> Clarke in Esword

<sup>14</sup> John Wesley in Esword