

# How do you know that?

...in all things God works for the good of those who love him..."

Romans 8:28 (NIV)

**I**t is fascinating how Christian people come to some of the conclusions they have about their faith. I love to listen to individuals explain what they believe and why. Some folk are long on what they believe but rather short on why they believe all that.

Take a very simple example. Ask a devout Christian why the church covers the bread at the communion table after the bread has been passed to each person. I am rather certain that no one will be able to come up with a better explanation than, "We always do it that way." They may scratch their heads and start to question the practice but will likely not get an answer even from their minister.

In our Christian faith we are called on to think about what we believe and practice. Our verse today is a summary statement that can warm the heart of every weary Christian. We desire to know that our suffering is not for nothing. But why should we believe this precious truth? What reasons

are there for trusting God when we cannot figure out what is happening to us?

How then do we know that all things work for good to God's people? Well, the apostle tells us in the verses surrounding our text. The glory that lies ahead of God's people is wonderful beyond description. In Matthew Peter, James, and John saw the Old Testament prophets Moses and Elijah talking with Jesus one day.

To see two people from the past appear in the present really overwhelmed Peter, James and John (Matthew 16:1-8). It was a magnificent sight to see and to hear them talking with Jesus. So they had a glimpse of heaven when viewing two people from there. Jesus spoke of various wonderful things ahead of God's people. So the future is as bright as the promises of God.

Then Paul reinforces the point by saying that all creation will one day be liberated from death and sorrow when Jesus comes. Every true Christian has the Holy

Spirit within Who causes the believer to long for and eagerly look forward to the consummation. That is the time when Jesus comes to wrap up the history of this world and usher in eternity with all its blessings for His people.

Meanwhile, as God's children wait with longing for the second coming, the Holy Spirit prays for us in a manner beyond description. This ministry is for all of God's people until they see Jesus. When the end comes we shall then see how everything that came to us in this life was part of God's eternal purpose for us and we shall finally be content.

So for these and other reasons we know that God is in control and working all things for our good. We know He loves us because He sent His Son to die for us. There is no greater love. That is how we know that for the believer in Jesus all things will ultimately work for our good.