



Dear Crossroads Family,

Sunday will be another special day at Crossroads. Every opportunity to worship the Lord together with our family of faith offers us the opportunity to enjoy fellowship, learn from His word, and experience His presence and power in a special way. As our Lord said in **Matthew 18:20**, “For where two or three gather in my name, there am I with them.”

On Sunday, we will be considering one of the most important passages in the New Testament, Romans 8:28, which says, “And we know that in all things God works for the good of those who love him, who have been called according to his purpose.” The text is a reminder that God is always at work in our lives, through the so-called good and bad times, to bring about good; that is, to mold and make us into people who reflect His character, experience His purpose, and bless others and the kingdom.

In his book, *Beautiful People Don't Just Happen*, Scott Sauls writes:

Many of the world's greatest souls became their best selves not in spite of but because of their distress. The great hymn writer Cowper wrote hopeful hymns and the great artist Van Gogh brushed epic paintings while contemplating suicide. Charles Spurgeon preached some of his best sermons while depressed. Abraham Lincoln, Winston Churchill, and Martin Luther King Jr. battled melancholy. The great composer Beethoven went deaf. C.S. Lewis buried his wife after a short, cancer-ridden marriage. Elie Wiesel and Corrie Ten Boom survived the holocaust. Joni Eareckson Tada lost her ability to walk in a tragic accident. John Perkins endured jail, beatings, and death threats from white supremacists.

As grief expert Elizabeth Kubler Ross famously noted, “The most beautiful people we have known are those who have known one defeat, known suffering, known struggle, known loss, and have found their way out of the depths. These persons have an appreciation and sensitivity, and an understanding of life that fills them with compassion, gentleness, and a deep love and concern. Beautiful people do not just happen.”

The word translated “good” in Romans 8:28 includes the idea of “beautiful.” So, we agree with Scott Sauls. Beautiful people don't just happen. Through the circumstances of our lives, God speaks and guides us toward His perfect will for us.

Let's learn more about that this Sunday so we can trust Him more completely as He guides us through the chaos of circumstance. (Sermon notes are provided below.)

See you Sunday,

Love,

Bro. Doug

Through the Chaos of Circumstance
Romans 8:26-39

In Rom. 8, God attempts to help us navigate a fundamental _____ of the Christian life: that despite our identity as children of God, we are subject to the same _____ and _____ as the rest of creation. In fact, God's word acknowledges that sometimes the pain, whether physical or emotional, is so bad that we don't even know how to _____—that the Spirit of God within us groans for us and the Father understands.

Paul's own experience offers a good look at the deep, confusing pain that a believer can experience. After years of suffering for the _____ and finally being _____ in Rome, he wrote in Philippians 1 that he didn't know how to pray; ask to _____ and be with the Lord or to _____ and continue to encourage his churches.

But in Romans 8, Paul expressed a promise for believers. Though we share in the same struggles and suffering as the rest of creation, for those who love Him, those called according to His purpose, God works in our lives so that all things, both those things which are _____ and those which are _____, guide us toward the "good." The word translated "good" doesn't refer to _____ pleasure. It refers to His perfect and blessed _____ and plan for your life. God uses our circumstances to guide us to be more like _____, and as a result to experience a life that is purposeful, _____, and a _____ to the world and the kingdom.

God has been _____ our lives so that all things, both what we consider good and pleasurable or bad and painful, are guiding us toward His good and perfect will for our lives that will result in purpose and blessing and ultimately _____.

We can be sure because of verse 32: "He who did not _____ His own Son, but _____ Him up for us all--how will He not also, along with Him, graciously give us _____?"

Whatever you're facing today, He won't _____ you _____. _____ can separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.

A Few Announcements:

Don't forget the **Baby Shower for Mauricio & Olivia** in the Fellowship Hall, this Sunday, September 27, from 4:00-6:00 pm. Come and celebrate with them!

Ladies, You are Invited! The **Women of Prayer Luncheon** is scheduled for Monday, September 28, from 11:00 am to 1:00 pm at the home of Kim Beckman (6642 Huebner). Due to limited parking, please try to carpool with a friend. The guest speaker will be Paula Barnds, who will have you guessing: "Do You _____?" When you RSVP, you will be asked to bring a suggested item from a list. RSVP to Gail Anderson at 210.863.5254.

Crossroads Monthly Food & Diaper Drive is next Sunday, October 4. Please bring your donations and place them in the red bins.

It's Fall y'all and time for our **October Young at Heart!** Join us on Thursday, October 8, at 11:30 am in the Fellowship Hall. Bring your favorite dish and/or dessert. Our very own Larry & Lynette will bring some of their favorite songs to enjoy and sing along to! All are invited!