

Playing Music Backwards – Romans 8:28

God's Words:

Romans 8:28 And we know that God works all things together for good to those who love God, to those who are called according to His purpose

REFLECTION

Playing music backwards. If you do it with country music, the cowboy finds his dog, his truck gets fixed. Then his sweetheart comes home. It's an old joke, but what a concept! If we could only pull it off in real life.

Real life lately has been highly challenging. Physical, social, economic, and emotional pressures unpredictably multiply and invade our daily lives.

One day, while pondering these pressures, I remembered that country music joke and started to fantasize about playing our lives backwards, back to before these current sufferings started, back to easier times. What a concept! All it would take is playing life backwards.

But we can't have backwards, not in real life. All we have is forwards. And that's where God comes in. Romans 8:28 says that for those who love God and who are called according to His purpose, He causes all things to work together for good. *Work together*. The words have a forwards ring to them. God is talking about a work in progress – good promised, but not yet complete. Something we have to wait to see.

God doesn't fix our plights by taking us backwards to good times gone by. He takes us forwards, first to fleeting tastes of heaven and then to heaven itself. Suffering is part of that process. I hate suffering. I don't really understand why it has to occur, and I don't comprehend God's methods. But I do trust His heart. Why? Because He purchased my future good with His own suffering. I can trust such a heart. And, knowing His heart, I can wait, perhaps in tears, but also in peace.

Because God bought our future good w/ His own suffering, when we suffer, we can trust His heart.

The music of this fallen world is often sorrowful; its tones clang against our ears and rip at our hearts. But what we now hear is only part of the composition. God has already written the last notes. His finale is perfection itself. And He always plays to the end of the song.

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