



## Lesson #5: Why do bad things happen to good people?

We continue our series on “why” questions by asking what is perhaps the most common “why” question of them all, “Why do bad things happen to good people?” From a Biblical perspective we have a problem with this question. According to the Bible there is no such thing as a \_\_\_\_\_ person (Romans 3:13). But what if we tweaked that question slightly. What if instead you asked, “Why do bad things happen to \_\_\_\_\_?” Life is hard, and as unfair as it may seem life is hard whether you are a believer or an unbeliever.

So where is God when life is tough? Where is God and why is He letting bad things happen to me? To answer this question we are going to go to **Romans 8:28** and we are going to see that God does have a \_\_\_\_\_ and because of this we can trust Him.

### YOU CAN TRUST GOD’S PLAN BECAUSE IT IS A \_\_\_\_\_ PLAN

“And we know that all things work together for good.” (Romans 8:28)

It’s important to notice what Paul says and what Paul does not say.

1. Paul does not say that everything that happens to a Christian is \_\_\_\_\_.
2. Paul does say that God can take the bad, rotten, miserable things in life, and God is able to bring \_\_\_\_\_ out of them.

This really would make sense with what we know about God because all throughout Scripture we are told that God is \_\_\_\_\_.

- James 1:17 – “Every good gift and every perfect gift is from \_\_\_\_\_.”
- Matthew 7:11 – “How much more shall your Father which is in heaven give \_\_\_\_\_ things to them that ask Him?”
- Nahum 1:7 – “The Lord is \_\_\_\_\_.”

We *know* that God causes all things to work together for good. This is the ironclad promise of God! “We *know*” is used \_\_\_\_\_ times in Romans and “*know*” is used \_\_\_\_\_ times. It refers to the common knowledge and hope of the Christians.

### YOU CAN TRUST GOD’S PLAN BECAUSE IT IS A \_\_\_\_\_ PLAN

“For whom he did foreknow, he also did predestinate to be conformed to the image of his Son, that he might be the firstborn among many brethren.” (Romans 8:29)

If you look at verse 29 you see that little word “for.” That’s a conjunction and it tells us that Paul is about to give us the reason WHY everything works together for good. That same Greek “for” could be translated “\_\_\_\_\_.” So what is what is the reason that all things work together for good?

Answer: “BECAUSE whom he did foreknow, he also did predestinate to be conformed to the image of His Son.”

God has a very different definition of “good” than we do. God’s definition of good is “\_\_\_\_\_.” It’s that you walk and talk, and behave, and respond in a way that Jesus Christ would. That’s what’s good. We call this process “\_\_\_\_\_” where a believer becomes more and more like Jesus Christ and less and less like his old sinful self.

### YOU CAN TRUST GOD’S PLAN BECAUSE IT IS A \_\_\_\_\_ PLAN

“Moreover whom he did predestinate, them he also called: and whom he called, them he also justified: and whom he justified, them he also glorified.” (Romans 8:30)

Paul did not write this section so that theologians could bang their head against the wall. If you look at the context of Romans 8 the whole chapter is talking about the \_\_\_\_\_ of believers. If you ask what comfort we get from this verse look at the subject of every one of those verbs.

- “\_\_\_\_\_ forknew”
- “\_\_\_\_\_ predestinated”
- “\_\_\_\_\_ called”
- “\_\_\_\_\_ glorified”

You see **God** is the one who carried out His plan. **God** is the one who is working out sanctification in you. And you say, “What if I fail? What if I don’t make it?” Well, it’s not up to you, It’s up to **God** and he doesn’t fail.

### CONCLUDING THOUGHTS

Why? Why does God allow bad things to happen to good people? The critic of Christianity would respond that God is either not all-\_\_\_\_\_, not all-\_\_\_\_\_, or not all-\_\_\_\_\_. I would say that the question – and even the perceived problem of evil – is actually more of a difficulty and conundrum for the \_\_\_\_\_ than for the \_\_\_\_\_.

Because God has a plan you should trust Him even during times of suffering!

Whenever we play with temptation it makes it easier to drift into grave danger. Don't make provision for temptation, but when temptation comes ...

- 1) Acknowledge that it's not from \_\_\_\_\_
- 2) Acknowledge it's from your own \_\_\_\_\_
- 3) Realize that it's growing your Christian \_\_\_\_\_
- 4) Love \_\_\_\_\_

Because temptation is a fact of life, we must understand the purpose of temptation.