

## **The Reason For These Problems**

### **Romans 8:28-29**

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1. The apostle Paul writes this familiar passage in Romans 8:28, "... we know that in all things God works for the good of those who love Him, who have been called according to His purpose."
  - a. That is a wonderful verse of Scripture that I think we oftentimes don't really understand. Some people seem to think that it is telling us that God has promised those who love Him that everything that will happen to them will be good. But that is not true. That is not what God is promising at all.
2. It's true. Sometimes tragic things happen, even in the lives of those who seek to walk closest to Him.
  - I. God Uses Problems to Direct Us. Romans 8:28, "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."
    - A. Paul starts this verse with the words, "and we know."
      1. "Count it pure joy, my brothers whenever you face trials of many kinds, because you know that the testing of your faith develops perseverance. Perseverance must finish its work so that you may be mature and complete, not lacking anything." (James 1:2-4)
    - B. Sorrowful things can work for our good.
  - II. God Uses Problems to Correct Us.
    - A. Sometimes we may be stuck in a rut and God uses problems to change our direction.
    - B. When we deliberately stray from what we know is right, God promises to correct us.
      1. "My son, do not make light of the Lord's discipline, and do not lose heart when He rebukes you, because the Lord disciplines those He loves..." (Hebrews 12:5, 6)
  - III. The Condition of God's Promise. Romans 8:28b, "...those who have been called according to His purpose."
    - A. As you read this verse, you'll see that this is not for everyone.
    - B. You cannot take Romans 8:28 lightly.
      1. "For those God foreknew he also predestined to be conformed to the likeness of his Son, that he might be the firstborn among many brothers." (Romans 8:29)
    - C. So whatever happened to the missionary family?