

The Goodness of God in 2020...and Beyond

Romans 8:28-32, Romans 5:1-5, 2 Corinthians 4:7-11

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December 28 & 29, 2019

1. God is weaving together **EVERY EVENT** in my life to make me more and more like Jesus.
2. Nothing can come into my life that God has not **AUTHORED** or **ALLOWED** for my good.
3. Our Father is so good to us, he's told us **BEFOREHAND** that **TRIALS** will come and that he uses them to shape us more and more into the likeness of Jesus.
4. God is so good he will never allow a trial to **CRUSH** us or **DESTROY** us.
5. For true believer is Jesus Christ, our salvation and eternity in heaven are **SEALED** and **SECURED** by the Holy Spirit in us.

[Passage Summary]

The Bible tells us that sooner or later all of God's people will face trials and suffering in this world. Our Heavenly Father loves so much that he tells the purposes of trials and suffering in our life. Because we know that trials are used by God to conform us more and more into the likeness of Jesus Christ, we can rejoice in our trials even though they are painful to go through.

Discussion Starters:

- Which of the above five outline points brings you great encouragement? Why?
- Share a time that you went through a season of suffering. What helped you focus on God's presence and love for you? What things discouraged you during that season?
- Read 2 Corinthians 1:3-5. Why is a ministry of empathy so powerful? Has God ever used your trials and suffering to minister to others going through the same thing?
- Jesus called Satan "the father of lies" (John 8:44). What are some of the lies that Satan tries to get us to believe when we are going through a season of deep suffering?
- What are some of the ways God gets glory when a believer chooses to rejoice in the midst of a very difficult trial?
- After hearing this teaching, what are some of the ways you could encourage a fellow believer who's losing faith in the midst of a long season of suffering?