

Divine Providence

Rom 8:28 And we know that God causes all things to work together for good to those who love God, to those who are called according to His purpose.

God does not say that all things work together for good!

Rom 6:1 What shall we say then? Are we to continue in sin that grace might increase? 2 May it never be! How shall we who died to sin still live in it?

Sin in our lives never works to the advantage of the Christian. How do I know? Sin severs my fellowship with God!

I Jn 1:6 If we say that we have fellowship with Him
and yet walk in the darkness, we lie and do not
practice the truth; 7 but if we walk in the light as He
Himself is in the light, we have fellowship with one
another, and the blood of Jesus His Son cleanses us
from all sin.

Judas is an example of how sin did not work for good in his life!

Matt 27:3 Then when Judas, who had betrayed Him, saw that He had been condemned, he felt remorse and returned the thirty pieces of silver to the chief priests and elders, 4 saying, "I have sinned by betraying innocent blood." But they said, "What is that to us? See to that yourself!" 5 And he threw the pieces of silver into the sanctuary and departed; and he went away and hanged himself.

Sin compounded when Judas failed to do God's will. For him, no good came from his actions.

Did God use Judas to accomplish His purpose?
Yes, God knew that His Son must be betrayed.

Matt 26:2 And as they were eating, He said, "Truly I say to you that one of you will betray Me." 22 And being deeply grieved, they each one began to say to Him, "Surely not I, Lord?" 23 And He answered and said, "He who dipped his hand with Me in the bowl is the one who will betray Me. 24 "The Son of Man is to go, just as it is written of Him; but woe to that man by whom the Son of Man is betrayed! It would have been good for that man if he had not been born." 25 And Judas, who was betraying Him, answered and said, "Surely it is not I, Rabbi?" He said to him, "You have said it yourself."

Ps 109:8 Let his days be few; let another take his
office.

Acts 1:25 to occupy this ministry and apostleship
from which Judas turned aside to go to his own
place."

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John 14:15 "If you love Me, you will keep My commandments.

When we love God and do His will, evil done by others will result in “all things [working] together for good”

Paul loved the Lord and evil things done to him
worked “for good”.

Phil 1:12 Now I want you to know, brethren, that
my circumstances have turned out for the greater
progress of the gospel, 13 so that my imprisonment
in the cause of Christ has become well known
throughout the whole praetorian guard and to
everyone else, 14 and that most of the brethren,
trusting in the Lord because of my imprisonment,
have far more courage to speak the word of God
without fear.

2 Tim 1:12 For this reason I also suffer these things, but I am not ashamed; for I know whom I have believed and I am convinced that He is able to guard what I have entrusted to Him until that day.

Some question whether God intervenes in the lives
of saints today!

1 Pet 5:6 Humble yourselves, therefore, under the
mighty hand of God, that He may exalt you at the
proper time, 7 casting all your anxiety upon Him,
because He cares for you.

Our heavenly father is omniscient and he cares

Matt 10:29 "Are not two sparrows sold for a cent?

And yet not one of them will fall to the ground apart from your Father. 30 "But the very hairs of your head are all numbered. 31 "Therefore do not fear; you are of more value than many sparrows.

Our Scripture continues, “to them who are called according to his purpose.”

What is God’s purpose for man?

Eph 3:11 This was in accordance with the eternal purpose which He carried out in Christ Jesus our Lord,

1Thes 5:9 For God has not destined us for wrath, but for obtaining salvation through our Lord Jesus Christ,

How does God cause all things to work for good
when we do his commandments?

Care, preservation, government exercised over all
things. God uses His natural laws to accomplish
His ends.

Esth 4:12 And they related Esther's words to Mordecai. 13 Then Mordecai told them to reply to Esther, "Do not imagine that you in the king's palace can escape any more than all the Jews. 14 "For if you remain silent at this time, relief and deliverance will arise for the Jews from another place and you and your father's house will perish. And who knows whether you have not attained royalty for such a time as this?"

Can we influence these decisions by God?

Rom 1:10 always in my prayers making request, if perhaps now at last by the will of God I may succeed in coming to you.

Col 4:2 Devote yourselves to prayer, keeping alert in it with an attitude of thanksgiving; 3 praying at the same time for us as well, that God may open up to us a door for the word, so that we may speak forth the mystery of Christ, for which I have also been imprisoned;

We must consider God and His purpose at all times in our
lives

James 4:13 Come now, you who say, "Today or tomorrow, we shall go to such and such a city, and spend a year there and engage in business and make a profit."

14 Yet you do not know what your life will be like tomorrow. You are just a vapor that appears for a little while and then vanishes away. 15 Instead, you ought to say, "If the Lord wills, we shall live and also do this or that." 16 But as it is, you boast in your arrogance; all such boasting is evil. 17 Therefore, to one who knows the right thing to do, and does not do it, to him it is sin.

1 Pet 5:6 Humble yourselves, therefore, under the mighty hand of God, that He may exalt you at the proper time, 7 casting all your anxiety upon Him, because He cares for you.

As you reflect on your life, what position do you find yourself in?

Are you where you are because of sin or because of following God's commandments?

Don't blame God for our sin.

Seek a way to follow God's will.

Making your requests known to him

Recognize "If the Lord wills".

Would you like to have this precious promise apply
to you?

Rom 8:28 And we know that God causes all things
to work together for good to those who love God, to
those who are called according to His purpose.

Why not obey His commandments now?

Act 22:16 And now what are you waiting for? Get
up, be baptized and wash your sins away, calling on
his name.'