

2013_07_14.001.tiff

And We Know

- Those who are in Christ Jesus
- Those who are led by the Spirit of God
- Those who have received the spirit of adoption
- Those who are fellow heirs with Christ
- Those who have the 'first-fruits' of the Spirit
- Those called "saints"

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Romans 8:22-23

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Things we don't understand, can't explain or resolve remind us of God's provident grace.

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And We know...

God works Constructively in our Lives

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For my thoughts are not your thoughts, neither are your ways my ways, declares the Lord. For as the heaves are higher than the earth, so are my ways higher than your ways and my thoughts than your thoughts.

-Isaiah 55:8-9

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In this you rejoice, though now for a little while, if necessary, you have been grieved by various trials, so that the tested genuineness of your faith—more precious than gold that perishes though it is tested by fire—may be found to result in praise and glory and honor at the revelation of Jesus Christ.

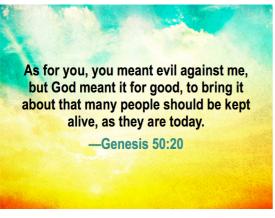
—1 Peter 1:6-7

"I'm often mystified. I don't understand why it is that as I endeavor to live for God and pray and believe, everything seems to be falling apart. Sometimes I struggle and I say, 'Dear Lord, why are you allowing this to happen?' It is good for us to remember that God is not an arsonist, He is a refiner."

-Ron Dunn

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Things we have done that bring shame, injury, and adversity can make us 'trophies of grace.'

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"Sinners cannot undo their actions or prevent the natural consequences of sin from producing its usual miserable effects, but there are innumerable occasions to thank a gracious Lord for counteracting and mitigating the otherwise devastating effects of such evil."

—Walk Kaiser

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Things we didn't plan, choose or enjoy often become the messengers of God's grace and love to us.

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"God whispers to us in our pleasures, speaks to us in our conscience, but shouts in our pains: it is His megaphone to rouse a deaf world."

—C.S. Lewis

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Synergia

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It is good for me that I was afflicted, that I might learn your statutes. —Psalm 119:71

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And We know...

God Works Comprehensively through our Circumstances.

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And We know...

God works Conformingly toward His Purpose.

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God's work is as particular as it is personal.

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"Loving God is desiring God himself beyond his gifts. Loving God is treasuring God himself beyond his gifts. Love for God is delighting in God himself beyond his gifts. Love for God is being satisfied in God himself beyond his gifts. Love for God is cherishing God himself beyond his gifts.

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Love for God is savoring God himself beyond his gifts. Love for God is valuing God and prizing God and revering God and admiring God beyond his gifts."

-John Piper

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And he said, "Naked I came from my mother's womb, and naked shall I return. The Lord gave, and the Lord has taken away; blessed be the name of the Lord."

—Job 1:21

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All things work for our good
Though sometimes we don't
See how they could
Struggles that break our hearts in two
Sometimes blind us to the truth
Oour Father knows what's best for us
His ways are not our own
So when your pathway grows dim
And you just don't see him,
Remember your never alone

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God is too wise to be mistaken
God is too good to be unkind
So when you don't understand
When you don't see his plan
When you can't trace his hand
Trust his heart

—Eddie Carswell, NewSong, and Babbie Mason

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