

Did I Make the Cut?

Romans 8:28 New King James Version

And we know that all things work together for good - - to those who love God, - - to those who are the called according to His purpose.

INTRODUCTION

This morning I want to take a brief pause to address the elephant in the room When I have shared with people that – all things work together for their good ... Some have replied back with a “Ya but” ... That “ya but” is in reference to what some see as a qualifier – for God’s goodness in this verse.

I have heard many messages preached over the years – on this verse – as I’m sure you have also ... I have heard preachers use the last two phrases at the end of the verse – as some type of qualifier ... Those two phrases are – to those who love God ... The other is – to those who are the called according to His purpose ... Now I know where that – “ya but” comes from ... May I ask a simple question here? ... Why do we keep turning God's goodness into something we have to qualify for?

This morning I want to talk a few minutes to address this – Ya But ... This misconception that things will only work out for your good – if you love God ... And if you are called according to His purpose.

Let’s Address this Love Issue

1 John 4:19 Easy English Bible

We are able to love God and other people because God loved us first.

1 John 4:8 New Living Translation

But anyone who does not love does not know God, for God is love.

First – we need to understand the origin of love ... God is love ... The very source and origin of love is God Himself ... So, love is a God thing – not a human concept nor construct ... This means man does not get to define nor qualify what love is.

Unfortunately – man has gotten really good at defining or qualifying what love is ... I remember as kids – we qualified love as getting our own way ... You would tell your mom or dad – well if you really loved me – you would let me do – whatever that thing was you wanted to do – or have them buy you ... What is really disheartening now is – love has turned into tolerance for all types of deviant behavior ... Society has turned love into abortions being acceptable under any reason ... Because if you love me – then you must let me do what I want to do ... This is what happens when humanity has defined or qualified what it means to love.

I want to remind you of something I shared last week ... Love needs a contrast in order to better understand what it is ... That contrast is hate ... Does God hate? ... Absolutely!

Proverbs 6:16 Amplified Bible, Classic Edition

These six things the Lord hates, indeed, seven are an abomination to Him: Know what is interesting? ... The seventh thing listed is – those who sow discord among the brethren ... I'll just let that one sit there.

Love is not some standard you must attain by human effort ... Nor is it some ambiguous standard set by some preacher's interpretation of Romans 8:28 ... God is love and you are in complete union with Him.

The issue of Calling and Purpose

Ephesians 1:4-5 Good News Translation

Even before the world was made, - God had already chosen us to be His - through our union with Christ, - so that we would be holy and without fault before Him. ... Because of His love ... 5 God had already decided - that through Jesus Christ – HE would make us His children - - this was His pleasure and purpose.

Takeaway

Let me leave you with this before we close ... The question in the title was never fair to begin with ... Did you make the cut ... There was no cut to make ... Love was never something you had to earn ... Your calling was never some recognizable standard that others felt you achieved ... Both were already true of you – because of your union with Christ – before the foundation of the world ... Before you ever thought or were told you must spiritually qualify – in the eyes of God or your fellow man.

So, I want to encourage you ... Stop auditing yourself ... Stop wondering if you loved Him enough this week ... Stop wondering if you heard His calling correctly ... I fully understand what I just said may sound confusing – compared to what I have shared in the past.

This is what you need to do this week – meditate upon

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