

**All Things for Good**  
**Romans 8:28-29**

March 10, 2019

Grace Bible Church  
God's Gospel — A Study of Romans

*GOD DESIGNS EVERY CIRCUMSTANCE OF OUR LIVES FOR OUR SPIRITUAL ADVANTAGE.*

*"IN CASE THE LOSS OF DEAR FRIENDS, A WIFE,  
OR CHILD, OR HUSBAND, LET US REST  
SATISFIED IN GOD'S WISDOM. GOD TAKES  
AWAY THESE, BECAUSE HE WOULD HAVE  
MORE OF OUR LOVE; HE BREAKS THESE  
CRUTCHES, THAT WE MAY LIVE MORE UPON  
HIM BY FAITH. GOD WOULD HAVE US LEARN  
TO GO WITHOUT CRUTCHES."*

— THOMAS WATSON,  
A BODY OF DIVINITY.

**CONTEXT:**

**1. The REALITY of Sovereign Sanctification**

**2. The LIMITATION of Sovereign Sanctification**

**3. The EXTENT of Sovereign Sanctification**

*"NOT ONE OF US HAS ANY TROUBLE IN  
ACCEPTING THIS DOCTRINE OF GOD'S  
SOVEREIGNTY AS LONG AS THINGS GO TO OUR  
LIKING.... WE ARE PERFECTLY SATISFIED TO  
LET GOD HAVE HIS WAY AS LONG AS HE DOES  
NOT CROSS US. AS LONG AS HIS MERCIES ARE  
POURED OUT IN WINE, WE DRINK OF THEM  
GLADLY; BUT AS SOON AS THE SAME CUP  
BEGINS TO TASTE OF WORMWOOD, WE PUSH  
IT AWAY IN DISGUST, OR CRY OUT PITEOUSLY.  
'LET THIS CUP PASS FROM ME.' ...IN SHORT, IF  
GOD HAD ONLY CONSULTED US AS TO THE  
MEDICINE WE SHOULD TAKE, AND AS TO THE  
BRANCH HIS PARING KNIFE SHOULD LOP OFF,  
WE WOULD HAVE BEEN PERFECTLY  
SUBMISSIVE."*

— THEODORE L. CUYLER,  
GOD'S LIGHT ON DARK CLOUDS.

#### 4. The HOPE of Sovereign Sanctification

*"FOR ADVERSITY WILL ALWAYS WOUND US WITH ITS STINGS. WHEN WE ARE AFFLICTED WITH DISEASE WE SHALL, THEREFORE GROAN AND COMPLAIN AND PRAY FOR RECOVERY. WHEN WE ARE OPPRESSED WITH POVERTY WE SHALL FEEL LONELY AND SORRY. WHEN WE ARE DEFAMED, DESPISED, AND OFFENDED, LIKEWISE WE SHALL FEEL RESTLESS. WHEN WE HAVE TO ATTEND THE FUNERAL OF OUR FRIENDS WE SHALL SHED TEARS. BUT WE MUST ALWAYS COME BACK TO THIS CONSOLATION: THE LORD PLANNED OUR SORROW, SO LET US SUBMIT TO HIS WILL. EVEN IN THE THROES OF GRIEF, GROANS, AND TEARS, WE MUST ENCOURAGE OURSELVES WITH THIS REFLECTION, SO THAT OUR HEARTS MAY CHEERFULLY BEAR UP WHILE THE STORMS PASS OVER OUR HEADS (JOHN 21:18)."*

— JOHN CALVIN.

#### 5. The GOOD of Sovereign Sanctification

*"WHAT ADVANTAGE IS IT TO US TO KNOW THAT GOD HAS CREATED, AND BY HIS PROVIDENCE DOES STILL UPHOLD ALL THINGS? THAT WE MAY BE PATIENT IN ADVERSITY; THANKFUL IN PROSPERITY; AND THAT IN ALL THINGS, WHICH MAY HEREAFTER BEFALL US, WE PLACE OUR FIRM TRUST IN OUR FAITHFUL GOD AND FATHER, THAT NOTHING SHALL SEPARATE US FROM HIS LOVE; SINCE ALL CREATURES ARE SO IN HIS HAND, THAT WITHOUT HIS WILL THEY CANNOT SO MUCH AS MOVE."*

— HEIDELBERG CATECHISM,  
QUESTION 28.

#### CONCLUSION:

*By the grace of God, one thing I can do this week in response to this sermon is:*