

### Observations and Questions from Romans 8:28 (NASB)

*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.*

1. The verse begins with the conjunction “and”.
2. Conjunctions join thoughts in some way, so this thought is joined to some other thought.
  - o What thought or thoughts are joined together with the thought of this verse?
3. “We” is the subject.
4. “We” is 1<sup>st</sup> person plural.
5. “we” would include Paul and his audience.
  - o Who is included in this “we”? Did Paul have in mind just the Roman church or all the churches of his day or all churches going forward?
6. “know” is the main verb.
7. This verb is in the perfect tense.
  - o Why did Paul choose to use the perfect tense?
  - o What are the implications of this tense choice?
8. Paul asserts that both he and his audience have known something.
  - o Why did Paul assume they knew?
  - o How did they know?
  - o How much of what he goes on to write would they have known?
9. “know” is a transitive verb (taking an object).
10. “That” is a conjunction joining “know” with what follows.
11. “That” indicates the content of what is known – “we know that...”
12. The clause beginning with “that” serves as the object of the verb “know”.
13. “God causes things to work together” is the simple clause.
14. We know (have known) that God causes things to work together.
15. God is the subject of the clause.
16. God is singular.
17. The main verb is “causes to work together” (Greek).
  - o What is this word in the Greek and what does it mean?
  - o Why did Paul choose to use this word?
18. The verb is 3<sup>rd</sup> person singular.
19. The verb is in the present tense.
  - o Why did Paul use the present tense?
  - o What are the implications of this tense choice?
20. The verb is transitive.
21. “Things” is the object of the verb (God causes *things*).
  - o What are the kind of “things” Paul had in mind?
  - o Were there any circumstances in the Roman church that Paul might have had in mind?
22. “All” is an adjective that modifies “things.”
23. God causes **all** things to do something.
  - o Is this “all” an absolute or is it all within a sphere of things?
24. “to work together” is part of the main verb and is present tense.

25. God makes or causes all things to work together.
  - o How does God do this?
  - o In what way do these things work together?
26. Working together requires more than thing acting or working.
  - o What are the things that are working together?
27. Many things are working together.
28. "For" is a preposition.
29. "Good" is the object of the preposition "for" – for good.
  - o What is the "good" that God is bringing?
  - o Does anything in the context define this good?
30. Good is a result or the end for which the work is being done.
31. God is doing good.
32. The good that God is doing is brought about by things working together.
  - o Why did Paul think it important to make this point?
  - o What circumstances might have been present that would make this statement necessary or helpful?
  - o Was this idea meant to encourage or correct their thinking?
33. "To" is a preposition.
34. "those" is the object of "to" – to those.
35. The good is to or toward a set of people.
  - o Does this good only work together for this set of people?
  - o What does this mean for those who are not a part of this set of people?
36. "Those" is a demonstrative pronoun.
37. "Who" is a relative pronoun that serves as the subject of the verb love.
38. "who love God" is a relative clause.
39. The clause "who love God" is the antecedent to the pronoun "those".
40. The clause "who love God" identifies or describes who the "those" are.
  - o What does it mean to love God?
  - o How were Paul's readers loving God?
41. "Who" is plural (in Greek).
42. "love" is a present participle.
  - o Why did Paul use a participle in this clause?
  - o What are the implications of the participle as opposed to a regular verb?
  - o Why did Paul use the present tense?
43. The participle "love" is plural.
44. "God" is the object of the participle.
45. God is being loved by someone.
46. The good God brings about is to those who are loving Him.
47. "God" is singular.
48. "to those" is another prepositional phrase.
  - o Why does Paul repeat this phrase rather than combining the ideas with one preposition?
49. This phrase is also connected to the good being given.
50. "Who are called" is another relative clause.

51. "Who" is the subject of this clause.
52. "are" is the main verb of the clause.
53. "Are" is a present participle in the Greek.
  - o Why does Paul use a participle in this clause?
  - o What are the implications of the participle as opposed to a regular verb?
  - o Why did Paul use the present tense?
54. The participle is plural.
55. "Called" is a predicate adjective.
56. "Called" modifies the subject "who".
  - o What does it mean to be called?
  - o Does anything in the context help define what this means?
  - o Why did Paul choose to make this point with an adjective instead of using a verb?
57. These "who" are called.
  - o Who are these "who"?
58. These called ones receive the good God brings about.
  - o Is this good that comes to this set of people different than the good that comes to the previous set?
  - o Are these sets of people (those who love and those who are called) the same people or two different sets of people?
59. "according to His purpose" is a prepositional phrase.
60. "purpose" is the object of the preposition "according to".
  - o What Greek word is translated as "purpose"?
61. It is "His" purpose.
  - o Who is the antecedent to "his"? Is this God or Christ or someone else?
62. "his" is a masculine singular possessive pronoun.
63. This phrase modifies the adjective "called".
  - o In what way does this phrase affect the meaning of "called"?
64. There is a purpose or plan for this calling.
  - o What is this purpose or plan?
65. This purpose or plan is said to be "his" purpose.
  - o Why does Paul say this is "his" purpose? Was this correcting something?
  - o Who else's purpose might they have been thinking about?
66. This purpose is affecting those who are called.
67. They are called in keeping with this purpose.
  - o What does this say about this calling?
  - o What does this say about God?
68. Paul assumes his readers know what this purpose is.
  - o How would they have known what this purpose is?
  - o Does Paul give any other information about this purpose in the context?