

Title: Trust God in the Midst of Trials

Passage: Romans 8:28-39

Draft Summary:

Key Truths

1. God is sovereignly in control over all things at all times.
2. God is good all the time.

Application:

- Remember God is always in control and everything happens is under his meticulous care and oversight.
- Remember God is fully reliable because He is good at all times.
- We should reason with our senses and not allow our emotions sway our minds.
- Act for justice and speak up against those who promote evil.

Possible Discussion Questions:

- What questions came to mind as heard the sermon ?
 - What next steps will you take in response to the sermon?
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Introduction

Recent world events especially the Ukraine conflict have brought about much questions.

- How should we look to our lives both present and in the future?
- Can we trust that God is still in control with what is going on? If He is all good and all powerful, how can the present be?

War

- "You shall not kill" - this commands is in the Bible
 - but is not applied in the context of war.
- God had commanded Israel at times to go into war against certain enemies. (See Book of Joshua)

Unjust War

- evil aggressors that take on

James 4:1-2a

What causes quarrels and what causes fights among you? Is it not this, that your passions are at war within you? You desire and do not have, so you murder. You covet and cannot obtain, so you fight and quarrel.

Just War

- just protection against evil aggressors to restore peace
- The function of government is to protect the people against evil.

Romans 13:4

for he is God's servant for your good. But if you do wrong, be afraid, for he does not bear the sword in vain. For he is the servant of God, an avenger who carries out God's wrath on the wrongdoer.

- a nation has a moral obligation to defend its people against foreign attackers.

Questions:

Why is the world you made is like this? Full of disease, evil, trouble, and suffering?

- If God is all powerful, maybe not all good?
- If God is all good, maybe not all powerful?

Truth: God is fully all powerful and all good.

Passage: Romans 8:28-39

And we know that for those who love God all things work together for good, for those who are called according to his purpose. For those whom he foreknew he also predestined to be conformed to the image of his Son, in order that he might be the firstborn among many brothers. And those whom he predestined he also called, and those whom he called he also justified, and those whom he justified he also glorified.

What then shall we say to these things? If God is for us, who can be against us? He who did not spare his own Son but gave him up for us all, how will he not also with him graciously give us all things? Who shall bring any charge against God's elect? It is God who justifies. Who is to condemn? Christ Jesus is the one who died—more than that, who was raised—who is at the right hand of God, who indeed is interceding for us. Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? Shall tribulation, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or danger, or sword? As it is written,

“For your sake we are being killed all the day long;
we are regarded as sheep to be slaughtered.”

No, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him who loved us. For I am sure that neither death nor life, nor angels nor rulers, nor things present nor things to come, nor powers, nor height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.

EXPOSITION

Context of passage:

- Regardless of background, all are born in sin.
- But God provided a Savior through Jesus Christ that all place their faith in Him as Lord and Savior may have eternal life.

- May then receive the Holy Spirit within them.

Romans 8:15-16

For you did not receive the spirit of slavery to fall back into fear, but you have received the Spirit of adoption as sons, by whom we cry, "Abba! Father!" The Spirit himself bears witness with our spirit that we are children of God,

- The Holy Spirit is like a spiritual babysitter that guides us and reprimands us.

Overview - Key Truths:

1. God is sovereignly in control over all things at all times.
2. God is good all the time.

I. GOD IS SOVEREIGNLY IN CONTROL

Matthew 10:29-30

Are not two sparrows sold for a penny? And not one of them will fall to the ground apart from your Father. But even the hairs of your head are all numbered.

Matthew 8:27

And the men marveled, saying, "What sort of man is this, that even winds and sea obey him?"

Proverbs 16:33

The lot is cast into the lap, but its every decision is from the LORD.

Proverbs 21:1

The king's heart is a stream of water in the hand of the LORD; he turns it wherever he will.

Psalms 115:3

Our God is in the heavens; he does all that he pleases.

Daniel 4:35

all the inhabitants of the earth are accounted as nothing, and he does according to his will among the host of heaven and among the inhabitants of the earth; and none can stay his hand or say to him, "What have you done?"

Lamentations 3:37-38

Who has spoken and it came to pass, unless the Lord has commanded it? Is it not from the mouth of the Most High that good and bad come?

Job 12:9-10, 13-14, 23

Who among all these does not know that the hand of the LORD has done this? In his hand is the life of every living thing and the breath of all mankind....With God are wisdom and might; he has counsel and understanding. If he tears down, none can rebuild; if he shuts a man in, none can open....He makes nations great, and he destroys them; he enlarges nations, and leads them away.

Isaiah 46:9-10

...for I am God, and there is no other; I am God, and there is none like me, declaring the end from the beginning and from ancient times things not yet done, saying, My counsel shall stand, and I will accomplish all my purpose,'

Daniel 2:20-21a

Blessed be the name of God forever and ever, to whom belong wisdom and might. He changes times and seasons; he removes kings and sets up kings

While God sovereignly ordains all things, He doesn't ordain them in the same way

- God is the author of good.
 - But He takes no pleasure in evil.
- Asymmetric relationship between good and evil.
- Good
 - God is the originator of all good things.
 - The source of any and all goodness is from God.
- Evil
 - Indirect permissive divine involvement
 - God allows/permits Satan to do what Satan does is natural.
 - God is not the originator of evil

Genesis 31:7

yet your father has cheated me and changed my wages ten times. But God did not permit him to harm me.

Mark 5:12-13a

and they begged him, saying, "Send us to the pigs; let us enter them." So he gave them permission.

God is in control at all times.

Story of Joseph

Genesis 50:20

As for you, you meant evil against me, but God meant it for good, to bring it about that many people should be kept alive, as they are today.

Acts 4:27-28

for truly in this city there were gathered together against your holy servant Jesus, whom you anointed, both Herod and Pontius Pilate, along with the Gentiles and the peoples of Israel, to do whatever your hand and your plan had predestined to take place.

- Who killed Jesus - the Jews or God?
 - Answer: Yes.
- Jesus was killed by the evil nature of man. Guilt remains.

God is sovereign even in the midst of trials

- no single event can occur outside of God's sovereign control.

II. GOD IS GOOD ALL THE TIME

- seeking His glory and the goodness of His children.

Romans 8:31

What then shall we say to these things? If God is for us, who can be against us?

Question: How can God be for us when He allows so much suffering?

- Answer: God's plans are bigger than our lives here on earth. He wants to prepare us for eternity.
 - We think everything is about here and now.
 - But the truth God is more interested in our eternal well being than merely our comfort.
 - Left alone in comfort, we forget about our heavenly home.
 - Sometimes things occur that reminds us that this world is only temporary
- Death is not final or the worst thing that can happen.

2 Corinthians 5:8

Yes, we are of good courage, and we would rather be away from the body and at home with the Lord.

Romans 8:32

He who did not spare his own Son but gave him up for us all, how will he not also with him graciously give us all things?

- God is a good Father. He is for us, not against us.
- When we doubt God's love, look to the cross

Romans 5:8

but God shows his love for us in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us.

Colossians 3:2

Set your minds on things that are above, not on things that are on earth.

Remember key truths:

- God is always sovereign.
- God is always just and loving.
- God is sufficient for all your needs.

Romans 8:38-39

No, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him who loved us. For I am sure that neither death nor life, nor angels nor rulers, nor things present nor things to come, nor powers, nor height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.

Reasons why God allows suffering:

- To increase our usefulness and comfort others

2 Corinthians 1:3-7

Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of mercies and God of all comfort, who comforts us in all our affliction, so that we may be able to comfort those who are in any affliction, with the comfort with which we ourselves are comforted by God. For as we share abundantly in Christ's sufferings, so through Christ we share abundantly in comfort too. If we are afflicted, it is for your comfort and salvation; and if we are comforted, it is for your comfort, which you experience when you patiently endure the same sufferings that we suffer. Our hope for you is unshaken, for we know that as you share in our sufferings, you will also share in our comfort.

- To keep us from comfortable in this world

Romans 8:18

For I consider that the sufferings of this present time are not worth comparing with the glory that is to be revealed to us.

- To produce us in Christian character

James 1:2-4

Count it all joy, my brothers, when you meet trials of various kinds, for you know that the testing of your faith produces steadfastness. And let steadfastness have its full effect, that you may be perfect and complete, lacking in nothing.

- To test and strengthen our faith

1 Peter 1:6-7

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.

- To create opportunities to witness for Christ

Philippians 4:12-13

I know how to be brought low, and I know how to abound. In any and every circumstance, I have learned the secret of facing plenty and hunger, abundance and need. I can do all things through him who strengthens me.

- To teach us our own weaknesses and depend upon Him.

2 Corinthians 12:7-10

So to keep me from becoming conceited because of the surpassing greatness of the revelations, a thorn was given me in the flesh, a messenger of Satan to harass me, to keep me from becoming conceited. Three times I pleaded with the Lord about this, that it should leave me. But he said to me, "My grace is sufficient for you, for my power is made perfect in weakness." Therefore I will boast all the more gladly of my weaknesses, so that the power of Christ may rest upon me. For the sake of Christ, then, I am content with weaknesses, insults, hardships, persecutions, and calamities. For when I am weak, then I am strong.

- Enlarge our appreciation of Jesus' sufficiency.

John 9:1-3

As he passed by, he saw a man blind from birth. And his disciples asked him, "Rabbi, who sinned, this man or his parents, that he was born blind?" Jesus answered, "It was not that this man sinned, or his parents, but that the works of God might be displayed in him.

God is never acting out of evil but out of perfect justice, holiness, and love.

- God's sovereignty is always out of love.

APPLICATIONS

God is always in control and everything happens is under his meticulous care and oversight.

- in God's infinite wisdom, all will make sense.
 - Ex: back of a woven rug looks chaos but when turn it around see beautiful display of a pattern/picture.
- We don't know what we don't know. We don't know what God is saving us from or saving us toward.
- Every ounce of suffering has a purpose in God's plan.
- There is no accidental suffering in this world.
- Trust God in His sovereignty and goodness.

God is fully reliable because He is good at all times.

Luke 11:11-13

What father among you, if his son asks for a fish, will instead of a fish give him a serpent; or if he asks for an egg, will give him a scorpion? If you then, who are evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will the heavenly Father give the Holy Spirit to those who ask him!"

We should reason with our senses and not allow our emotions sway our minds.

- Our emotions should be subject to God's Word and not the world.
- Talk to yourself His truth.
- Resist the temptation that our emotions can lapse into unBiblical thoughts.

Psalms 42:11

Why are you cast down, O my soul, and why are you in turmoil within me? Hope in God; for I shall again praise him, my salvation and my God.

Act for justice and speak up against those who promote evil.

- pursue personal holiness as well as act for His righteousness.
- Pray for the right things for the right reasons.

Romans 12:9, 12

Let love be genuine. Abhor what is evil; hold fast to what is good...Rejoice in hope, be patient in tribulation, be constant in prayer.