

Trusting Providence

Read Romans 8:18-39

>-----LIFE----->

Providence = how God works all things to accomplish his purpose/decrees

God's Decree

health issue
marriage issue
career issue
football season

- We don't know what God has decreed.
- We only know that "it is for our good and for His glory."
- We also know that LIFE is a journey/a process of sanctification.
- We know that it involves suffering. Note all the references to suffering, groaning, etc in this passage.
- No one is immune to suffering (even Creation itself) as we await the consummation of God's decrees concerning our salvation.
- If you knew what the END was for your particular issue, how would it effect you?
- Would you be a quitter? Would you say that it is not worth the suffering?
 - Stop trying to be healthy? Quit your marriage? Start robbing banks? Walk off the team?
 - If so you are already a quitter by nature, you have weaknesses in your character. (selfishness, cowardice, unfaithfulness, ungratefulness, etc.)
 - The bottom line is this: you are lacking in faith >> you don't have the same definition of what is good for you and glorifying unto God, that God does.
- But if you will trust God's word that all things are working together for your good and His glory, and by faith live your LIFE, then you will find that God sees more value in the process of life than you do -- whereas, in the past, you have only worried about the END of life.
- God defines "good" differently than we do.
 - And life is about God changing our definitions (and values, morality, & character).
 - That is what makes this life of suffering WORTH it all.
- Paul said, **v.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.**
- Are you trusting God today?
 - by living faithfully, in the midst of suffering
 - by living unto God's glory, even when there is no immediate payoff?
 - Are you letting God transform the way you think, the way you define life, what you value?