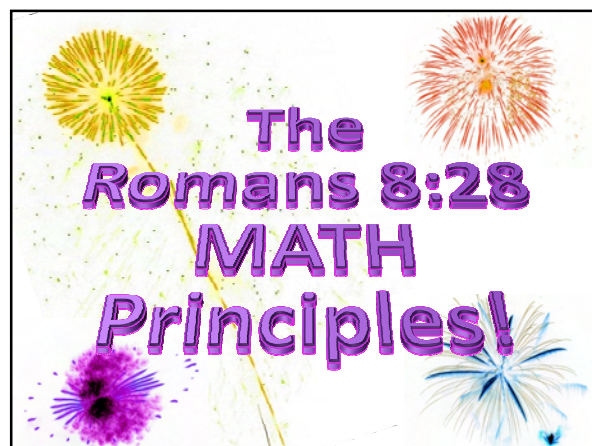


# LOVE

## Without Hypocrisy

(in the book of Romans)

28 – Evil... turned into good!



### The Romans 8:28 MATH Principles!

And we know that *in all things* God works for the *good* of *those who love him*, who have been *called according to his purpose*.

Romans 8:28 (NIV)

$$\left[ \begin{array}{c} \text{ALL} \\ \text{THINGS} \end{array} \right] \times \left[ \begin{array}{c} \text{LOVE FOR} \\ \text{GOD} \end{array} \right] = \left[ \begin{array}{c} \text{GOOD} \end{array} \right]$$

GUARANTEED

for those God has chosen (called) for this purpose!

### GUARANTEED by the *power of God!*

OUR RESPONSIBILITY      GOD'S SOVEREIGNTY

$$\left[ \begin{array}{c} \text{THOSE} \\ \text{WHO LOVE} \\ \text{GOD} \end{array} \right] = \left[ \begin{array}{c} \text{THOSE} \\ \text{CALLED} \\ \text{BY GOD} \end{array} \right]$$

(THEREFORE) SINCE GOD HAS CHOSEN YOU, IT'S GUARANTEED!

$$\left[ \begin{array}{c} \text{ALL} \\ \text{THINGS} \end{array} \right] \times \left[ \begin{array}{c} \text{CALLED BY} \\ \text{GOD} \end{array} \right] = \left[ \begin{array}{c} \text{GOOD} \end{array} \right]$$

### WHAT ABOUT PEOPLE WHO DON'T LOVE GOD?

And we know that *in all things* God works for the *good* of *those who love him*, who have been *called according to his purpose*.

Romans 8:28 (NIV)

$$\left[ \begin{array}{c} \text{ALL} \\ \text{THINGS} \end{array} \right] \times \left[ \begin{array}{c} \text{THEY ARE NOT PART} \\ \text{OF THE EQUATION.} \end{array} \right] = \left[ \begin{array}{c} \text{GOOD} \end{array} \right]$$

### IN THAT CASE, HOW CAN I KNOW IF I LOVE GOD?

"If you *love* me, you will *obey* what I command."  
John 14:15 (NIV)

BELIEVE  
WHATEVER MAKES  
YOU FEEL GOOD?

JUST GUESS?

FIND OUT  
WHAT THE  
BIBLE SAYS!

To *love* God means that we *obey*  
his commandments.

1 John 5:3a (GW)

"All those who *love* me will  
*do* what I say.  
Anyone who *doesn't love* me  
will *not do* what I say."  
John 14:23a, 24a (NLT)

## HOW SHOULD I RESPOND TO SUCH VERSES?

### IGNORE THEM?

> AND <

### MAKE EXCUSES FOR MY DISOBEDIENCE?

IT'S A NICE "IDEAL,"  
BUT PEOPLE CAN'T  
REALLY BE  
EXPECTED TO DO IT!

THE MORE I SIN,  
THE MORE HE  
FORGIVES ME!

I'M SAVED, SO  
IT DOESN'T  
MATTER HOW  
I LIVE!

GOD DOESN'T  
REALLY MEAN THAT!

JESUS CAME  
TO LOVE, NOT  
TO JUDGE!

NOBODY'S  
PERFECT!

## HOW SHOULD I RESPOND TO SUCH VERSES?

### ADMIT THEY ARE TRUE?

> AND <

### CONFESS MY SINS / ACKNOWLEDGE GOD'S POWER?

I CAN'T DO IT ON  
MY OWN... I'M  
GOING TO NEED  
GOD'S HELP!

I CAN'T USE  
FORGIVENESS AS  
AN EXCUSE!

I WANT  
JESUS TO  
BE SEEN  
IN MY  
LIFE!

IF JESUS IS IN MY  
LIFE, GOD  
GUARANTEES I  
WILL SUCCEED!

I NEED TO PAY  
ATTENTION TO  
THE BIBLE!

GOD KEEPS SAYING  
IT... HE MUST BE  
SERIOUS!

## Romans 8:28 MATH Principles (continued)

And we know that in all things God works for the  
good of those who love him, who have been  
called according to his purpose.

Romans 8:28 (NIV)

IF THIS  
IS TRUE: [ I LOVE  
GOD ] which  
equals: [ I AM CALLED  
BY GOD ]

THEN THIS  
IS TRUE: [ ALL  
THINGS ] → [ GOOD ]

## The Logical Conclusion:

IF THIS  
IS TRUE: [ ALL  
THINGS ] → [ GOOD ]

THEN THESE  
ARE TRUE:\* [ GOOD  
THINGS ] → [ GOOD ]  
[ BAD  
THINGS ] → [ GOOD ]

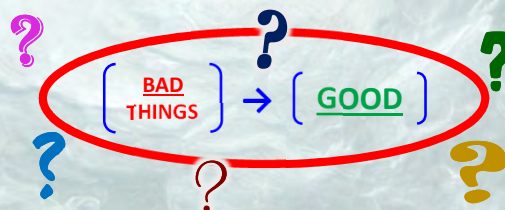
\*(Since BOTH are a part of "ALL" things.)

WE LIKE IT WHEN GOOD THINGS HAPPEN.  
BUT WHEN BAD THINGS HAPPEN?



➤ Can we really accept it as resulting in GOOD?

AND WHAT IF THOSE BAD THINGS  
ARE BEING CAUSED BY PEOPLE?



➤ Can we really accept what they are doing as  
resulting in GOOD? Let's learn from an EXAMPLE

**EXAMPLE: Joseph's brothers mistreated him.**

➤ When he was young.

PLEASE DON'T  
SELL ME INTO  
SLAVERY!

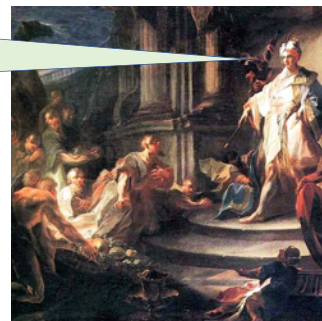
➤ But many years later...

PLEASE DON'T  
TAKE REVENGE  
ON US!**JOSEPH'S REPLY?****But how did Joseph treat his brothers?**... you meant evil  
against me, but  
God meant it for  
good ...

Genesis 50:20 (WEB)

He comforted them,  
and spoke kindly  
to them.

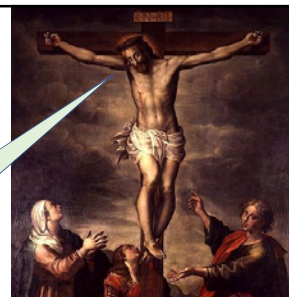
Genesis 50:21b (WEB)

**Yes, we can accept it  
as resulting in good.**➤ **JOSEPH'S REPLY?****SO HOW SHOULD WE TREAT PEOPLE  
WHO CAUSE US HARM?**➤ We **KNOW** that **God** will someday pay them  
back (if they don't repent).... it is written: "It is mine to avenge;  
I will repay," says the Lord.

Romans 12:19b (NIV)

➤ But how should **we** respond?I HOPE THEY  
BURN IN HELL!**NO!!!****Time for more EXAMPLES****EXAMPLE: How Jesus  
treated those who  
killed him.**Father, forgive  
them, for they  
don't know what  
they are doing.

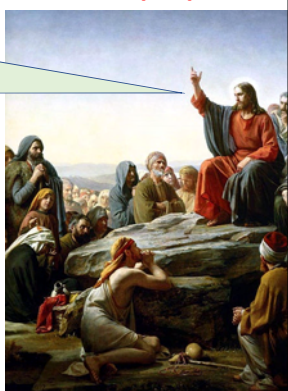
Luke 23:34a (WEB)

**Christ, who suffered for you, is your example.** Follow in his  
steps. ... He did not retaliate when he was insulted. When  
he suffered, he did not threaten to get even. He left his  
case in the hands of God, who always judges fairly.

1 Peter 2:21b, 23 (NLT)

**EXAMPLE: How God treats evil people.**But I say, love your  
enemies! Pray for those  
who persecute you! In  
that way, you will be  
acting as true children  
of your Father in  
heaven. For he gives his  
sunlight to both the  
evil and the good, and  
he sends rain on the  
just and on the unjust,  
too.

Matthew 5:44-45 (NLT)

**(At the same time, WE are being blessed!)**Blessed are those who are  
persecuted for  
righteousness, for the  
kingdom of heaven  
belongs to them.Blessed are you when people  
insult you and persecute  
you and say all kinds of  
evil things about you  
falsely on account of me.Rejoice and be glad because  
your reward is great in  
heaven, ...

Matthew 5:10-12a (NET)





## OUR STUDY OF "UNHYPOCRITICAL LOVE"

(ROMANS 12:9-21)

ALSO SHOWS US HOW TO RESPOND!

Bless those who persecute  
you; bless and do not curse.

Romans 12:14 (NIV)

All this leaves us with a FACT and a CONCLUSION!

The FACT!

THESE PEOPLE WHO ARE PERSECUTING US ARE  
ACCOMPLISHING GOOD IN OUR LIVES!

{ ALL THINGS  
(INCLUDING BAD THINGS) } → { GOOD }

And we know that in all things God works for the  
good of those who love him, who have been  
called according to his purpose.

Romans 8:28 (NIV)

The CONCLUSION!

WHEN PEOPLE  
ARE ACCOMPLISHING GOOD  
IN OUR LIVES, WHY WOULDN'T  
WE WANT TO BLESS THEM?

Wanting to CURSE them  
would be a horrible thing ...  
TOTALLY UNLIKE WHAT JESUS WOULD DO!

PERSECUTION IS NOT  
ALWAYS THIS SEVERE.

I WANT GOOD  
THINGS TO  
HAPPEN TO YOU!

I WANT YOU TO BE  
PART OF MY  
CHRISTIAN FAMILY!

WE WILL TEAR  
YOU TO PIECES!

## Your Mission...

PAY ATTENTION TO THE ROMANS 8:28 MATH!

★ DETERMINE WHOSE CHILD YOU ARE. ★

- **GOD'S?** (You will bless your enemies, because they are accomplishing good for you.)
- **The DEVIL'S?** (You may curse your enemies; you won't desire good for them.)

**BE AWARE:**

You will live like your father, whichever one it is!

## Credits (1)

### SCRIPTURE

- Scriptures marked "NLT" – Scripture quoted from the Holy Bible, New Living Translation, copyright ©1996. Used by permission of Tyndale House Publishers, Inc., Wheaton, Illinois 60189. All rights reserved. ([www.newlivingtranslation.com](http://www.newlivingtranslation.com))
- Scriptures marked "NIV" – Scripture quoted from the HOLY BIBLE, NEW INTERNATIONAL VERSION®. Copyright © 1973, 1978, 1984 International Bible Society. Used by permission of Zondervan. All rights reserved. ([www.zondervanbibles.com](http://www.zondervanbibles.com))
- Scriptures marked "GW" – Scripture is taken from GOD'S WORD®. Copyright 1995 God's Word to the Nations. Used by permission of Baker Publishing Group. All rights reserved.
- Scriptures marked "NET" – Scripture quoted by permission. Quotations designated (NET) are from the NET Bible® copyright ©1996-2006 by Biblical Studies Press, L.L.C. <http://netbible.com> All rights reserved.
- Scriptures marked "WEB" – Scripture quoted from the World English Bible (Public Domain). ([www.englishbible.org](http://www.englishbible.org))

### PICTURES (original sources; modifications may have been made)

- Fireworks – Dennis Hinks © 2014.
- Joseph, sold into slavery – Antonio del Castillo y Saavedra [Public domain], via Wikimedia Commons; [https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Castillo\\_y\\_Saavedra\\_-\\_Joseph.jpg](https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Castillo_y_Saavedra_-_Joseph.jpg)
- Joseph as ruler – Franz Anton Maulbertsch [Public domain], via Wikimedia Commons; [https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Franz\\_Anton\\_Maulbertsch\\_-\\_Joseph\\_and\\_his\\_Brothers\\_-\\_WGA14678.jpg](https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Franz_Anton_Maulbertsch_-_Joseph_and_his_Brothers_-_WGA14678.jpg)

## Credits (2)

PICTURES (original sources; modifications may have been made)

- Jesus on the cross – By Pier Antonio Bernabei (1567-1630) [Public domain], via Wikimedia Commons; [https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Bernabei\\_Crocefisso\\_Vergine\\_Santi.jpg](https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Bernabei_Crocefisso_Vergine_Santi.jpg)
- Jesus at the Sermon on the Mount – Carl Heinrich Bloch [Public domain], via Wikimedia Commons; <https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Bloch-SermonOnTheMount.jpg>
- Man undergoing severe persecution (torture) – By Jan Luyken (1649-1712), in the Martyrs Mirror. [Public domain], via Wikimedia Commons; [https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Mark\\_Martyr.jpg](https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Mark_Martyr.jpg)
- Uneven gray background – Dennis Hinks © 2013.
- Presentation – Dennis Hinks © 2017.
- DISCLAIMER: The use of a picture does not imply that the author of that picture agrees with the views of this presentation. Some might agree, some might not.

# Your Mission...

**"Bless those who persecute you; bless and do not curse."**

**Romans 12:14**

In all ways, God calls us to be different from the world.

**FOLLOWING JESUS WILL  
INFLUENCE ALL ASPECTS OF LIFE.**

## *Blessing or cursing - which controls you?*

### **What are they?**

- *To bless someone* - To desire good for them; to pray that God will do good to them.
- *To curse someone* - To desire harm for them; to pray that God will bring harm to them.

### **Our tendency: To respond the way the others do.**

- If they bless us ... we bless them.
- If they curse us ... we curse them.

### **Our need: To respond the way Jesus did.**

- If they bless us ... we bless them.
- If they curse us ... we bless them.

## *God calls us to be different from the world.*

- To radiate light, when others promote darkness - Matthew 5:14-16.
- To love, when others hate - Luke 6:27.
- To promote peace, when others promote violence and discord - Hebrews 12:14.
- To build others up, when others would rather tear people down - Romans 15:2.
- To choose holiness, when others choose sinfulness - Hebrews 12:14.
- To be a sacrifice, when others want to sacrifice - Romans 12:1.
- To reject the world's ways, when others cling to them - Romans 12:2.
- To live wisely, when others promote folly - Colossians 4:5.
- To cling to the freedom of Jesus' teachings, when others cling to the slavery of sin - John 8:31-32.
- To speak truthfully, when others would rather live a lie - Ephesians 4:15; Matthew 5:37.
- To delight in God's commands, when others hate them - Psalm 119:47-48.
- To trust God, when others distrust him - Psalm 40:4.
- To acknowledge God in all things, when others choose to ignore him - Proverbs 3:6.
- To honor and glorify God in all things, when others dishonor him - 1 Corinthians 10:31.
- To seek first God's kingdom, when others are seeking first their own "kingdoms" - Matthew 6:33.
- To bless others, when others want to curse - Romans 12:14.
- To follow Jesus, when others are making excuses - Mark 8:34-38. We *will* follow him, if we belong to him - John 10:27-29.