

## **Everything is for us!**

***Jacob exclaimed, "You are robbing me of my children! Joseph is gone! Simeon is gone! And now you want to take Benjamin, too. **Everything is going against me!**" (Gen 42:36 NLT)***

Did you ever have a bad day? No, a really bad day? Well, you can relate to what Jacob felt in Genesis 42! Everything looked like it was going against Jacob. He thought he had lost Joseph, then Simeon, and now Benjamin. One by one things were looking like he was losing more and more. If only Jacob could see at that moment that God was actually working everything for Him! Joseph was actually alive in Egypt working to save Him and His family. Jacob got to a place where he cried out, "Everything is against me!". Jacob often had a problem with walking according to just what he saw, felt, and experienced. If things were down, then he got down. If things looked good then he was up. Sounds alot like many Christians today! The Apostle Paul came to understand that he did not have to live that way! God revealed to him that because of the New Covenant that no matter what happened to him, God was always working those situations around for His good. Paul definitely did not believe all things came from God, but that God was working all things toward His good and the good of the kingdom. Paul put this revelation to the test in the worst of times and saw God turn the worst to the best!

***(Php 1:12 NASB) Now I want you to know, brethren, that my circumstances have turned out for the greater progress of the gospel,***

In Philippians we see that Paul was in prison. He did not get there because he deserved it, but because he was preaching the gospel of Jesus Christ. Many at that point would not be able to see God at work but Paul did! Paul said that he believed that his bad circumstances instead of destroying him was actually working for him. He said that his bad circumstances which was against him actually turned around and was working for him and making new progress for the gospel. Although Paul was in chains for the gospel his message was not chained. There were soldiers chained to him which gave him opportunity to preach to them. Everytime he got a new soldier he preached to him. He was getting the praetorium guard saved! This was not just soldiers but elite and very influential soldiers. These were the personal soldiers of the emperor. These soldiers were getting their family saved and even some of the family of the emperor! Instead of seeing his imprisonment as a bad circumstance Paul chose to see it as a good opportunity and trusted God. The bad things Satan sent to dominate Him and beat him down actually turned around and started to work for him. The words "greater progress" in this verse is the one Greek word which is the word "**proskope**"- which comes from pro- before and kopto- to cut. This word was used of advance wood cutters in front of the Roman army. When the Roman army would travel through densely forested areas they sent ahead of them an advance troop of wood cutters that would cut a path through the woods for the army so that they could make advancement. Paul did not see his circumstances as a undefeatable obstacle but as a advance troop of wood cutters blazing a new trail that had not existed before. Moses came to such a place and God opened up a new trail through the Red sea! Paul saw that his circumstances actually was making an opportunity to preach he would have never had if he was not there. **Our unique problems will always provide unique opportunities to us if we**

**will turn them over to God and trust Him!** You might find yourself in circumstances that look like they have you down and defeated. You must realize that with trust in God, He will make those circumstances turn around from opposing you to working for you! No matter what Satan has done in your life, God wants to see them turned around to work for you if but trust in His goodness and power in your life.

***(Rom 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.***

This verse is not just some nice thought, but a sure promise to all of God's children in this life. God is causing **ALL** things to work together for the good to those that love Him and are called to His purpose. If you are saved, then God has poured out His love in your heart so that you can love Him back. If your heart is beating you still have a purpose that He is calling you to. **No bad thing can stop this in your life! This verse is true even if you have created the bad circumstances in your life.** Just repent, which means to change your mind. Consecrate your circumstances to God and let Him start turning them to work for you instead of against you. God is love and He is a good God no matter what it looks like. We must hold on to that and never let it go. You might be thinking everything is against me, but the truth is that everything is working for you. Trust Him today.

Prayer: Father God I consecrate to you all my circumstances right now. I love you and I know you have a plan for my life. Please make these circumstances turn away from hurting me to helping me. I trust you that you are now causing all things to work together for my good and for your purpose. Please show me if I am causing any of these things in my own life and I will repent from them. I know you are a good God and a God of love. I know you are working for my good right now. Thank you Father!

