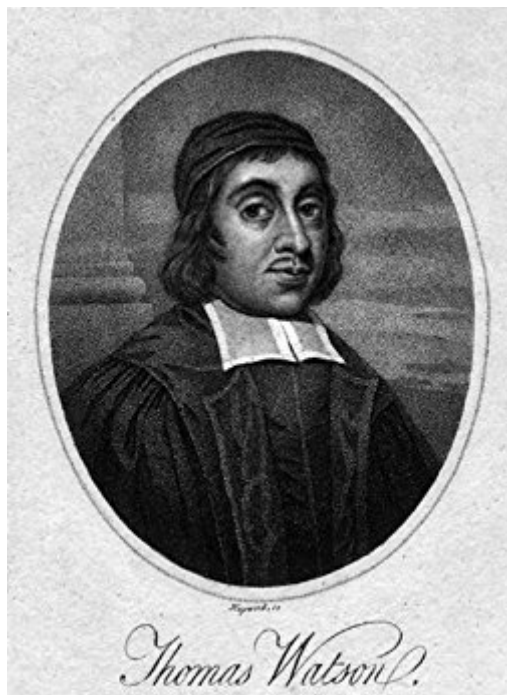


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# All Things For Good



## Synopsis

Thomas Watson (c. 1620–1686) was an English, non-conformist, Puritan preacher and author. From The Introduction: If the whole Scripture be the feast of the soul, as Ambrose said, then Romans 8 may be a dish at that feast, and with its sweet variety may very much refresh and animate the hearts of Gods people. In the preceding verses the apostle had been wading through the great doctrines of justification and adoption, mysteries so arduous and profound, that without the help and conduct of the Spirit, he might soon have waded beyond his depth. In this verse the apostle touches upon that pleasant string of consolation, **WE KNOW THAT ALL THINGS WORK TOGETHER FOR GOOD TO THEM THAT LOVE GOD.** Not a word but is weighty; therefore I shall gather up every filing of this gold, that nothing be lost. In the text there are three general branches: First, a glorious privilege. All things work for good. Second, the persons interested in this privilege. They are doubly specified. They are lovers of God, they are called. Third, the origin and spring of this effectual calling, set down in these words, **according to his purpose.** First, the glorious privilege. Here are two things to be considered. 1. The certainty of the privilege - **We know.** 2. The excellency of the privilege - **All things work together for good.**

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## Customer Reviews

Romans 8:28 begins "...And we know that God causes all things to work together for good..." and ends with the modifiers "...to those who love God" and "...to those who are called according to His purpose." Of course, this is one of the most memorized and quoted verses of Christians - as a man who has led men's Bible studies for the past eight years or so, I have heard it quoted many, many times. Can I say that some of those who quoted this verse were struggling with heartbreak or significant issues and to hear them quote it was a bit uncomfortable. The reason myself and others in our groups were uncomfortable was the feeling the speaker was not really convinced what they were going through COULD actually work for good. We heard the words, but not their conviction. I struggled with this lack of conviction for a long time and know it is not uncommon among men. An elderly pastor friend mentioned Thomas Watson's book in a passing conversation. I had never heard of Thomas Watson, but downloaded the Kindle version. What I found was a GREAT book I have enjoyed very much. Thomas Watson lived 1620-1686 and was an English, Non-Conformist, Puritan preacher and author. He published "All Things For Good" around 1660. The Kindle version uses "modern day language" for the most part (although there are some "interesting" archaic words retained you will probably chuckle over). There are nine chapters that do a superb job of "fleshing out" HOW all things work together for good...for those who love God, etc. Chapter One takes on how the BEST things work for good to the Godly. Chapter Two takes on the opposite - how the WORST things work for good to the Godly. Chapter two and how the worst things work for good is what has been very helpful to myself and others. Watson lays out, in simple language, how afflictions work for good. It is not a shallow treatment of this sensitive subject but examines afflictions from many angles. There are many good books on "why things happen to good people" but this is the original. Watson provides many helpful insights and solid thinking about how the worst things work for good, with absolutely NO sugar-coating or covering up the fact the worst things ARE, in fact, the worst. In this chapter Watson also writes how "the evil of temptation works for good" - just one of his insights being that "temptation works for good, as it is a touch-stone to try what is in the heart." Just this one sentence can facilitate a great conversation among men who fight temptation on a daily basis. In the next paragraph, Watson writes a great thought completely useful today..."Temptations work for good, as God makes those who are tempted, fit to comfort others in

the same distress...A man that has ridden over a place where there are bogs and quick sands, is the fittest to guide others through that dangerous way..." Have you ever thought how temptations work for good as they make us "long more for heaven?" Watson did and writes it down here. Have you thought much about how "the evil of sin works for good to the godly?" Watson did and lays out several pages of thought on how both OUR sin and the sins of others work for good. What he wrote in 1660-something could have been written yesterday - "...the people of God pray against the iniquity of the times, that God will give a check to sin, that He will put sin to the blush. If they cannot pray down sin, they pray against it; and this God takes kindly. These prayers shall both be recorded and rewarded. Though we do not prevail in prayer, we shall not lose our prayers. "MY PRAYER RETURNED INTO MINE OWN BOSOM" (Psalm 35:13).Watson includes many reference verses - as above - throughout his book, so there is plenty to back up what he wrote. I am on my second and third readings of several sub-chapters of his book and am enjoying his work very much. Highly recommended!

This is such a good book, I recommend it constantly. If you want to be encouraged to see how God really does work ALL things for good, even those things we don't consider so good, it is very, very encouraging and God is greatly glorified!

A great devotional that expounds on Romans 8:28, All things work together for good... Many times Puritan writers are difficult to understand but this one is well written. It is a short read and encouraging for those going through difficult times.

The eminent Puritan pastor Thomas Watson gives us in 'All Things for Good' an exposition of Romans 8:28. In opening up this portion of God's Word his purpose is to comfort the Lord's people, and help them to see that even in the greatest trials that they will face, God is willing and able to make them work out for their good. How can the Lord work trials, both great and small, to bless and help His people? In this masterful treatise Watson shows us how this can be. In the first section of the first chapter we see that it is God's attributes, that being His power, His wisdom and His goodness that are operative in His children's behalf. The Puritans were master physicians of the soul. One cannot help but think that the depth of their understanding on how God uses affliction and trials in the lives of believers was not just in theory but in large part experiential as well. Just a brief sketch of many of their lives would reveal that to be the case. They also realized that whatever brings Christians nearer to God was to be seen as an evidence of His love and a desire to

abundantly bless them. A couple of brief quotes will hopefully give a small glimpse of the great depth that is so abundant in the written legacy that the Puritans have left us: p.31 "How do afflictions make us happy, we reply that, being sanctified, they bring us nearer to God." p.52 "God does not deal alike with all, He has trials for the strong and cordials for the weak... if God does not give you that which you like, he will give you that which you need." In Christ's school of learning, (how the Lord providentially uses affliction, temptation and sin) for the believers good, the Puritans are masterful teachers, and books such as 'All things for Good' should not be neglected to help instruct us in these important matters.

I'm glad the 2005 Desiring God National Conference whose theme was 'Suffering and the Sovereignty of God' recommends this book. Watson went deep, as he usually did, on all his treatises I have read, this one on Rom 8:28. What is particularly encouraging is where he explained why and how God uses the evil of affliction, abandonment, temptation and sin for the good of the saints in an excellent way, though in some cases he sounds a little redundant and verbose. There is a little flavor of Calvinism when he discussed "for those who have been called according to his purpose.", which makes sense, since Rom 8:28 is the beginning of an elaborate and robust defense on the doctrine of unconditional election and limited atonement that continues on in chapter 9. I went away happy after reading this book, having drunk a divine cordial of grace and tasted and seen the LORD is indeed good. From him, through him and to Him are all things. To him be glory forever, amen.

What a wonderful reminder of God's sovereignty! Our small group went through this book and it was life changing for all of us. It was especially helpful in recognizing God's goodness even when being sinned against. If you have ever struggled with how "all things work together for good" (Romans 8:28-29) this book will be a great help!

Profound thinking that is anchored to scripture. Makes you realize the extent of the word pair "all things" in God's providential plan. Gives a glimpse to the answer of the question: Why God? Highly Recommended!

Great book.

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