

“For Good” - - July 21, 2021

Big issue in Christian life: Why this?

Tony Robbins says: “Life doesn't happen to you, it happens for you.”

Rom. 8:28 – “God causes all things to work together for good to those who love God, to those who are called according to His purpose.”

- Paul found himself in prison. But here’s what he wrote in **Phil. 1:12**:
- “I want you to know, brethren, that the things which happened to me have actually turned out for the furtherance of the gospel.”

Events that shape our lives also shape us. Teach us. Mature us. Move us.

Out of nowhere . . . can’t understand how it happened . . . it’s God.

Stop asking why/demand answers. Who are we to Q the King?

Stop thinking it’s punishment for sin. God was angry w/Job’s friends.

- *The gauge of your faith happens in the testing, the waiting.*

Events don’t define us – they design us. **You** aren’t defeated; loss is gain.

Ex: Man who in 1 year - lost his job, then defeated for State legislature.

Next year – lost his job. But in next year, elected to St Leg.

Year later – fiance dies. Year later – nervous breakdown; Re-Elec.

2 yrs later – defeated for Speaker. But in 2 yrs, re-Elec for 2d time.

Tried to run for congress, but defeated. 3 yrs later, Congress.

2 yrs later, lost renomination. Next year, rejected for Land Officer.

5 yrs later, defeated for US Senate.

2 yrs later, defeated for Vice Pres nomination. (less than 100 votes)

2 yrs later, defeated for US Senate for 2d time.

2 yrs later – elected Pres. Abraham Lincoln.

Defeats and set-backs are really set-ups for your life. Lessons learned.

Some lessons come from people . . . some turn on us. Love becomes hate.

Joseph: brothers betrayed him. Yet . . . **“God intended for good.”**

Some people will walk . . . “All I wanted was love” – but rejection.

-- Our relationships are intentional, not accidental. God brings people in.

-- Difficult bosses develop skills in us. Hard coaches make great players.

++ Relationships make us better people, even those that end.

Prov. 27:17 (GNT) - "People learn from one another, just as iron sharpens iron."

MSG – "You use steel to sharpen steel, and one friend sharpens another."
Some people may have come into your life for you to help.
They may not stay because YOU were intended to sharpen them. . .

Potatoes, Eggs & Coffee – each faced the same adversity: boiling water.

-- Yet each reacted differently.

++ Potato went in strong, hard, unrelenting; it became soft and weak.

++ Egg was fragile, thin outer shell; it became hard & tough.

+++ Coffee beans were unique. They changed the water.

- You may be in a difficult time to change the water.

Some events happen outside of us . . . some b/c of us.

Paul/Saul: he was misguided. Thought - doing what was right. Passionate!

Blinded for 3 days. Divine change of direction... change of heart.

But it was "for good." ●Damascus Rd happened for him, not to him.

God sometimes blinds us... w/o "blind moments" we wouldn't stop.

It's time to stop, be still. Let God show you a new way.

It's time to stop, be led. Headstrong & passionate, we aren't following.

Surrender.

It's time to stop, walk in faith. In dark, heavy rain – you see just enough.

You can be "chosen" & still suffer heartache.

Thru heartache & pain, we grow.

What brings us to our needs brings us to God.

SONG of the WEEK - "All Things" by Nicole Binion.

Stay positive. Test negative. Vaccinate!