

Myth #5: *It's All Good*

The fifth in the series:

Urban Myths: Debunking Christian Clichés

June 19 & 20, 2010

1. *If God has a wonderful plan for my life, just how wonderful is it?*

Is it _____?

•How we _____ may not align with what God has planned for us.

The two most frequently quoted verses about God's good plans (and how they are often misunderstood):

Rom. 8:28 - "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."

Read it carefully: does it say, "it's all good?"

Consider the context: what is God's purpose?

Jer. 29:11 - "'For I know the plans I have for you,' declares the LORD, 'plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future.'"

Consider the context: to whom was he speaking?

Learn the history: when was this promise fulfilled?

2. *If God has a wonderful plan for my life, just how planned is it?*

Is it _____?

•Thinking of God's will as all predetermined in detail can...

...turn life into a cruel g_____ g_____.

But God doesn't want us to be intimidated.

...mislead us that our c_____ don't c_____.

But God doesn't want us to be de-motivated.

Questions for Personal Reflection And Group Discussion

1. Think about the first of the Four Spiritual Laws, "God has a wonderful plan for your life." What misunderstandings can it breed?
2. How are we to understand that popular phrase?
3. How do you believe God would define success for his children? How well does this match our world's idea of success?
4. What does Rom. 8:18 teach us about God's wonderful plan? When will we experience it?
5. See Rom. 8:28. This popular verse is often quoted out of context. What light does the next verse shed on what is meant by God's purpose?
6. Think of Christ's character and what he went through. If you're in a group, share some verses that describe Jesus and his sacrifice. Now consider what the process of becoming more like him might entail. If God's wonderful plan is for us to glorify him by becoming progressively Christlike, what will this involve?
7. If God's wonderful plan involves suffering, are we still to view it as wonderful? How?
8. Read Jer. 29:11 in context. Who was he talking to and what happened to them? When was the promise fulfilled? What does this suggest about the application of this verse?
9. Some people sit and wait for God to reveal his specific will about what they should do, but don't follow through with what God has already said about his will. Read each of these verses and see what you can learn about God's wonderful plan for your life: Eph. 5:17,18; 6:5-8; 1 Thes. 4:3-8; 1 Pet. 2:12,13.

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