Romans 8:28

Romans 5:1-6

Introduction:

1. Cole writes his mom and dad from scout camp

Dear Mom and Dad,

Out scout master told us to write in case you saw the flood on TV, because he said that you might be worried. Don’t worry, we’re OK! Only one of our tents and 2 sleeping bags got washed away. Luckily, none of us drowned because we were up on the mountain looking for Chad when it happened. Oh yeah, please call Chad’s mother and tell her that he is OK, now. He can’t write because of the cast.

I got to ride in one of the search and rescue Jeeps, it was neat. We never would have found him in the dark if it wasn’t for the lightning. Our scoutmaster Walt got mad at Chad for going on a hike alone without telling anybody. Chad said that he did tell him, but it was during the fire so he probably didn’t hear him. Did you know that if you put gasoline on a fire that the gas can will blow up?! Did you know that? The wet wood didn’t burn, but one of the tents did. David is going to look weird until his eyebrows grow back.

We’ll be home on Saturday if Scoutmaster Walt gets his car fixed. Yeah, it wasn’t his fault about that wreck. The brakes went out. Scoutmaster Walt said the brakes were fine when we left, but he said in a car that old you have to expect something to break down. That is probably while he can’t get any insurance.

We think it is a neat car. He doesn’t care if we get it dirty, and sometimes when it is hot he lets us ride out on the fenders. It gets pretty hot with ten people in one car. He let us take turns riding in the trailer, until the Highway patrol pulled us over and talked to us about that. Scoutmaster Walt is a neat guy, and he is a great driver in fact he is teaching Terry how to drive on the mountain roads where there isn’t much traffic. Did you know that you didn’t need guard rails on roads that don’t have much traffic? All we ever see up there are logging trucks. Today, all of the guys were diving off of the rocks and swimming in the lake. Scoutmaster Walt wouldn’t let me because I can’t swim and Chad couldn’t swim because of the cast, so he let us take a canoe all by ourselves out across this big lake. It was great. You can still see some of the trees under the water from the flood. Scoutmaster Walt isn’t crabby like some scoutmasters; he didn’t even get mad about losing the life jackets. He has to spend a lot of time working on the car so we are trying not to cause him any trouble. Guess what! We’ve all passed our first-aid merit badges. When Jimmy jumped in the Lake and cut his arm, we got to see how a tourniquet works.

Wade and I got sick, but Scoutmaster Walt said it was probably just food poisoning from the leftover chicken. He said they got sick that way with food they ate in prison. I sure am glad he got out of prison and became our scout leader; he said he had time to figure things out while he was in prison. I have to go now we are going to town to mail our letters and buy bullets. Don’t worry about anything Mom we are having the time of our lives.

Cole

That is a kid who has everything to complain about, but sees the joy (Taken from Charles Swindoll sermon on Attitude delivered to Dallas Theological Seminary).

1. The story of Joseph is a story of God’s providence. Genesis 37-47
2. Jacob could not see the good in God’s working. Genesis 42:36
3. Paul took a different attitude. Romans 8:28
   1. Past sufferings. 2 Corinthians 11:24, 25
   2. The principle applied. Philippians 1:12-14
4. Let us learn and live. Romans 8:28
5. WE KNOW.
   1. By faith. Romans 10:17; John 20:30, 31; Hebrews 11:1
   2. By faith, we know.
      1. Columbus sailed in 1492.
      2. The Declaration of Independence was signed in 1776.
      3. Atoms are made up of protons, neutrons, and electrons.
6. ALL THINGS WORK TOGETHER FOR GOOD.
   1. Not that all things are good, but all things work together for good.
   2. The best things work for good.
      1. The promises of God. 2 Peter 1:4; Matthew 6:33
      2. Christ’s Intercession. Hebrews 7:25; 1 John 2:1
      3. Fellowship and encouragement of Christians. Hebrews 10:24, 25
      4. Prayers of the Saints. James 5:16
   3. The worst things work together for good.
      1. Illustrations.
         1. Two poisonous elements, sodium and chloride, are dangerous by themselves; when they work together, they become salt.
         2. The wheels in a watch move contrary to each other, but all carry on the motions of the watch.
         3. The drilling of a dentist hurts, but that painful treatment works for our ultimate good.
         4. Medicine may have undesirable and uncomfortable side effects but ultimately works for our good health.
      2. Observations.
         1. I’ve never read the story of a great man without finding that at one time or another in that man’s life he went through days of hurt, and it was the molding influence of the hurt that made the man what he was. It’s a great principle for life, it’s the heart of a champion (*The Heart of a Champion*, by Bob Richards, page 42).
         2. Romans 5:3-6; James l:2-4
         3. The Winds of Fate

One ship drives east and another drives west

With the selfsame winds that blow.

‘Tis the set of the sails

And not the gales

Which tells us the way to go.

Like the winds of the sea are the ways of fate,

As we voyage along through life:

‘Tis the set of a soul

That decides its goal.

And not the calm or the strife (by Ella Wheeler Wilcox, *Sourcebook of Poetry*, by A1 Bryant, page 73).

* + 1. Examples.
       1. David. Psalm 119:67,71
       2. Joseph. Genesis 50:20
       3. Death of Christ.
          1. Not a good thing. Acts 2:23, 36
          2. Works for good. 2 Corinthians 5:21; Hebrews 5:8, 9; Hebrews 2:9

1. WHY ALL THINGS WORK TOGETHER FOR GOOD TO THE CHRISTIAN — HIS RELATIONSHIP TO THE LORD.
   1. Christ is the Head of His Body. Ephesians 1:22,23; Colossians 1:18
   2. Jesus is a Friend to His People. John 15:13, 14
   3. Christ is the Husband to His Bride, the Church. Ephesians 5:25-30
   4. God is our Father. Psalm 103:13; Luke 15:17-24
   5. Christ is the Great Physician. Mark 2:17
   6. The Lord is our Shepherd. Psalm 23; Luke 15:3-7
2. THE PROMISE IS CONDITIONAL.
   1. All Things do not work for good for everyone.
   2. Even spiritual good things work to the hurt of the rebellious and wicked.
      1. Christ. 1 Peter 2:7, 8
      2. Prayer. Proverbs 28:9
      3. Lord’s Supper. 1 Corinthians 11:26-29
   3. All things work together for to:
      1. Those that love God. Mark 12:30; 1 John 5:3; John l4:15, 23; 2 Corinthians 5:14
      2. Those who are the called according to His purpose,
         1. The word called often refers to those who have heard and obeyed the Gospel.
            1. God calls everyone through the Gospel. 2 Thessalonians 2:14; John 6:44, 45; Acts 2:39
            2. The “called” then are the obedient, the saved. 1 Corinthians 1:22-24, 18
         2. To make our calling and election sure, we must continue to live for the Lord. 2 Peter 1:10

Conclusion:

1. Never Fear...Trust God

I know you have heard the story of the Chinese who had one horse and one son. One day the horse broke out of the corral and fled to the hills. All of the neighbors came around that night and said, “Your horse got out? What bad luck!” “Why,” the old Chinese said, “How do you know it’s bad luck”?

Sure enough, the next night the horse came back to his familiar corral for his usual feeding and watering, leading twelve wild stallions with him! The farmer’s son saw the thirteen horses in the corral, slipped out and locked the gate.

The neighbors heard the good news and came excitedly to the farmer, “Oh, you have thirteen horses! What good luck!” And the old Chinese answered, “How do you know that’s good luck?”

A few days later the young son was trying to break one of the wild stallions only to be thrown off and break a leg. The neighbors came back saying, “Your son broke his leg. What bad luck!” And the wise father said, “How do you know it’s bad luck?

Sure enough, a few days later a Chinese war lord came through town and conscripted every able-bodied young man, taking them off to war, never to return again.

But the young man was saved because of his broken leg (John Gipson, Keynoter, Little Rock, Arkansas, Volume 9, Number 23, June, 1977).

1. A grand promise. Romans 8:28
   1. He didn’t say it would work quickly.
   2. He didn’t say we would always understand it.
2. Do you love God? John 14:15, 21
3. Are you obeying Him? Mark l6:16

The points in this sermon are taken from a book, *A Divine Cordial*, by Thomas Watson, first published in 1663.

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