

1. Introduction
  - a. Difficulties in life where we cannot see purpose in everything
  - b. We believe that God is always at work
  - c. God is still sovereign (ruling over all)
2. God's Promise – “ ... all things work together for good ...”
  - a. Guaranteed promise – we know based on God's Word
    - All things – good, bad, indifferent
    - Job 19:25 – I know that My Redeemer shall stand upon the earth at the last day
    - 1 John 5:13 – We know that you have eternal life
  - b. Guided promise – work together
    - God's rules over our reality
    - 1 Chronicles 29:11 – All things in heaven & earth belong to God
    - Example of Fanny Crosby – blind song writer
      1. Fanny Crosby, “God makes no mistakes.”
3. God's Purpose – “ ... to them who called according to God's purpose ...”
  - a. To a redeemed (saved) people
    - 1 John 4:19 – Why do we love God? Because God first loved us
  - b. For a revealed purpose
    - Philippians 1:6 – God who began a good work in us will complete it until the Day of Jesus Christ
    - God is not finished with us yet
4. God's Process – conformed to the image of God's Son
  - a. If God brings you to your difficulty, He will bring you through it
    - Example processing metal under heat of fire
  - b. Planned process – “ ... whom He foreknew ...” (know before it happened)
    - Isaiah 46:10 – God declared the end before the beginning, and from ancient times things that are not yet done. God says, “My counsel shall stand.”
    - God works in every situation
  - c. Personal process – “ ... conformed to the image of His Son ...” [Jesus]
    - 1 John 3:1-2 – God's love that we should be called the children of God ... we shall be like Jesus
    - God conforms us in different ways, like prayer & trials
    - God's conforming actions are His tutoring & guiding loving hands