



Article: **Making Peace with Romans 8:28**
Author: Brad Hambrick
Source: *The Journal of Biblical Counseling* (Vol 28:3, 2014)
Available for purchase online: <http://www.ccef.org/making-peace-romans-828-0>¹
Available for preview [here](#)²

Introduction

A snippet of Romans 8:28—"All things work together for good"—is often blithely quoted to sufferers as if it is a panacea. But when offered this way, it frequently leaves people feeling none of the intended comfort. This is unfortunate because the eighth chapter of Romans is intended to connect to hurting and struggling people. Brad Hambrick re-establishes that connection by first uncovering some false beliefs about suffering and then placing Romans 8:28 in its proper context, enabling us to appreciate its stunning truth.

Questions for Group Discussion³

Groups of 3 people, maximum 4

1. How has suffering come across your path? Is it primarily through your own experience of suffering, or as you walk with others? (*Be brief, but provide enough information for the other two in your group to know how you are coming at this. It will - and should - change the way you interact with each other.*)
2. What did you think of the article? (*Give your 1 – 2 sentence version!*)
3. Have you any experience of any of the five misunderstandings of suffering described in pages 44-50? Try to identify examples in yourself or in others and be ready to share one of these. How have these been unhelpful or damaging? Are there aspects of them you still think might be true?
4. What is the "hope" in Romans 8:25? (see vv22-24). How does v 25 pick up on that?
5. Hambrick walks us through each phrase of the preceding verses from v25. Are there any parts of his thinking you don't understand or are unsure of? Think about your own suffering, or a sufferer you have talked to. In what ways do these verses connect with you/them?
6. Do you agree that the "ghost" word we might unwittingly insert into v28 can lead to damaging misunderstandings of the verse? Try to think of a real example of this happening, or invent a simple scenario in which it might happen.
7. How would you now summarise the meaning of Romans 8:28? How might this be helpful to people that you know? Think of Christian and non-Christian people for whom this is "good news".

¹ See <http://www.ccef.org/copyright-permissions> for permission on making and distributing copies of *JBC* articles

² <http://www.ccef.org/sites/default/files/journal-articles/Preview%20-%20Making%20Peace%20with%20Romans%208-28%20-%20Hambrick.pdf>

³ Discussion questions by Andrew Nicholls