

## Defining "Success" for the Man of Faith and Grace

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Romans 8:28; "28 And we know that all things work together for good to those who love God, to those who are the called according to His purpose. 29 For whom He foreknew, He also predestined to be conformed to the image of His Son, that He might be the firstborn among many brethren. 30 Moreover whom He predestined, these He also called; whom He called, these He also justified; and whom He justified, these He also glorified. 31 What then shall we say to these things? If God is for us, who can be against us?"

When discussing Business as Mission we will use the term "success" many times. Therefore, in order to both remove the possibility that anything close to a secular understanding is implied, we must define what is "success" for the man of faith and grace.

Success for the man of faith and grace is a state of relationship with Christ and not a score card for how many material things that have been accumulated. All that is possible for any man to attain or to become, that is good will be experienced within and because of that relationship.

Allow me to repeat that. Think with me now as we consider this together:

Success for the man of faith and grace is a state of relationship with Christ and not a score card for how many material things that have been accumulated. All that is possible for any man to attain or to become, that is good will be experienced within and because of that relationship.

We ask all to consider that Christ has the same moral standard for all, but that He does not have the same functional or material outcomes for all. Christ is never wavering in principles, wisdom or understanding. However, in His working within us, to do His will and His good pleasure, He allows for many different outcomes of function and material results. Therefore when you hear the term "success" used in this context, do not assume that it means what our secular culture teaches. We use the word as it must be understood within the context of God's revealed Law-Word and not the corrupted understanding of unbelievers. Unfortunately for us, we are misled many times to accept things more in light of what our secular culture teaches, than what God's word teaches in Roman 8:28. I'm sure you will agree with me that this gets us into a lot of trouble sometimes.