

## Malcolm's Monday Musings : 31 May 2021

Greetings.

This is the first of my new-style 'Monday Musings'.

You will probably recall that last week's email concluded with the following announcement:

*God willing, for the foreseeable future, each weekly email will comprise EITHER (i) 'Scripture', (ii) 'Food for thought' and (iii) 'Go on, smile' [with no attached document] OR (i) 'Scripture' and (ii) an attached document [with no 'Food for thought' and 'Go on, smile' sections].*

This week's email takes the form of 'Scripture and an attached document'. (The length of today's document should stifle any feeling of having been 'short-changed'.)



I ought, perhaps, to say that my choice of subject has been largely influenced by the knowledge that not a few readers (a) are currently facing rather difficult and trying circumstances and, therefore, (b) may appreciate something to lift their spirits.

First, then, **'Scripture'**:

I consider that the sufferings of this present time are not worthy to be compared with the glory which shall be revealed in us. For the earnest expectation of the creation eagerly waits for the revealing of the sons of God. For the creation was subjected to futility, not willingly, but because of Him who subjected it in hope; because the creation itself also will be delivered from the bondage of corruption into the glorious liberty of the children of God. For we know that the whole creation groans and labours with birth pangs together until now.

Not only that, but we also who have the firstfruits of the Spirit, even we ourselves groan within ourselves, eagerly waiting for the adoption, the redemption of our body ...

Likewise, the Spirit also helps in our weaknesses. For we do not know what we should pray for as we ought, but the Spirit Himself makes intercession for us with groanings which cannot be uttered ...

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.

Romans 8. 18-28 (*The New King James Version*).

Second, **the document**.

[The attached document focuses on an expression which forms part of the closing verse of that passage; namely, 'All things ... for good'.](#)

As a 'taster', here are two extracts.

1. One 'of the so-called "Five Ecuador Martyrs" was Nate Saint, the team's "Jungle Pilot". Let me quote you the testimony of Nate Saint's son, Steve, who was just five years old when his father was martyred. Steve wrote in 2005:

'I have personally paid a high price for what happened on Palm Beach. But I have also had a front-row seat as the rest of the story has been unfolding for half a century. I have seen first-hand that much good has come from it.

'I believe only God could have fashioned such an incredible story from such a tragic event. I could not begin to record the thousands of people who have told me that God used what happened on Palm Beach to change the course of their lives for good ... If I could go back now and rewrite the script, I would not change a single scene. I have come to understand that life is too complex and much too short to let amateurs direct the story. I would rather let the Master Storyteller do the writing'.

2. "What Paul tells the Romans is not that we live in the best possible world, but we are being prepared for the best possible world", that "our setbacks and sufferings become **stepping-stones to glory**".

'William Cowper captured the sense of this in the third stanza of his hymn/poem, "God moves in a mysterious way":

"The bud may have a bitter taste,  
But sweet will be the flow'r".

Happy reading!

Yours in our Lord Jesus,

Malcolm