

**He does all things well.– Sunday 12<sup>th</sup> July, 2015**

***“They were utterly astonished, saying, “He has done all things well; He makes even the deaf to hear and the mute to speak.”Mark 7:37***

Beloved in The Lord,

The crowd witnessed a great miracle – a deaf and mute man was completely healed. This led them to the conclusion that Jesus does all things well. This conclusion was a correct one, and they were attesting to the Truth when they said *“He does all things well.”* Everything God does, He does well. God never does anything either bad or badly. He is a Good God. He is not only a loving God – He is love. He is Holy; He is Righteous; He is blameless, He is pure.

Jesus said on one occasion: ***“He who has seen Me, has seen the Father.” (John: 14:9)*** He also said: ***“I and the Father are one.” (Jn.10:30)*** If we want to know God, if we want to see God, we need to look at Jesus.

Throughout His life, Jesus only ever did good. There is no record of any wrong doing on His part. He was pure and holy and righteous in all His ways. He was without sin, He was with neither spot nor blemish. Had this not been the case, if He was not sinless, then He would not have been an acceptable sacrifice for the propitiation of sin. He could not have been the Lamb of God which takes away the sin of the world. Because God is holy, the only sacrifice that He could or would accept, had to be pure and holy in every way.

In order for us to be able to confess that God does all things well, we must believe that God is love and that He loves us. If this issue is not properly settled in our hearts, then we will find it hard to believe and confess that God does all things well.

This is an easy confession to make when the sun is shining, our health is good, all is well in life. Life rolls along smoothly. There are no hardships or heartaches. In those periods or seasons it is easy to say – God does all things well. The test comes, when the clouds roll in, our health fails, some tragedy occurs. What then? Can we still say “He does all things well?” Can we still thank and praise God on our sickbed, or as we stand by the casket of a deceased love one? If we really know our God and have fully entrusted our lives to Him, then the answer is yes we can. A true child of God confesses along with the Apostle Paul:

***“And we know that God causes all things to work together for good to those who love God, to those who are called according to His purpose.” (Romans 8:28)***

What I would like to emphasise today is the phrase: ***“Who are called according to His purpose.”*** Do you realise that long before God created the World, He had you in mind, and He knew you? God had a plan for your life. We read what God said to Jeremiah when He called him:

***“Before I formed you in the womb I knew you, And before you were born I consecrated you; I have appointed you a prophet to the nations.”(Jer.1:5)***

You see, God is telling him that before he was even conceived, God had a plan for his life. Jeremiah was earmarked to be a prophet to the nations.

Paul writes:

***“Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places in Christ,<sup>4</sup> just as He chose us in Him before the foundation of the world, that we would be holy and blameless before Him. In love<sup>5</sup> He predestined us to adoption as sons through Jesus Christ to Himself, according to the kind intention of His will,<sup>6</sup> to the praise of the glory of His grace, which He freely bestowed on us in the Beloved.” (Eph.1:3-6)***

You see, Paul confirms this very same truth, saying that we were chosen in God, before the foundation of the world. This is a very difficult truth to comprehend. You and I, who are we? Tiny little ants. We are one of billions of people, yet God has personally chosen us and called us, and known us before the foundation of the World. That is awesome. I don't know about you, but I want to shout: “My God, How great Thou Art!”

Did you notice what is written in the fifth verse? Let me repeat it:

***“He predestined us to adoption as sons through Jesus Christ to Himself, according to the kind intention of His will.”***

We are predestined for adoption according to the kind intention of God's will. God's intentions toward us, and His will for us is kind, it is good. Please understand this truth. It is very, very important. If and when we understand this then we are free. Jesus said that we shall know the truth and the truth shall set us free.

This is a truth that truly sets us free from many things.

When you understand and believe that God's intentions and His will for you are good, and that all His ways are right, then you are free from negative thinking. You are set free from whining and complaining. You find yourself being able to say: “I don't understand everything that is happening to me, I don't even like some of these things, but I know that my God is good and because He is good and loves me, I will trust Him and be thankful. This approach to life is very liberating and refreshing. It raises you above your difficulties and problems and sets you in a higher realm.

Paul and Silas, having been severely beaten were cast into a cold, dark, damp, miserable dungeon. They were in chains with little hope of coming out alive. What did they do? Did they moan and groan like the other prisoners? Did they say: Woe is me? No and a thousand times no. They sang praises to God. How is this possible? The answer is that their focus was not on themselves and their plight, but firmly on The Lord Jesus Christ. They believed that all things work together for good, for those who believe in Christ Jesus.

They praised God, and He responded by sending a powerful earthquake that loosed their chains and swung open the prison doors. The prison keeper and his whole household believed and were baptised that very night. God received great glory.

Please remember that God's thoughts and His ways are far superior to ours. He knows what He is doing and He is in control.

There are a few verses in the prophet Habakkuk that have really helped me in difficult times, and that have taught me to have a right perspective:

***“Though the fig tree should not blossom And there be no fruit on the vines,  
Though the yield of the olive should fail And the fields produce no food,  
Though the flock should be cut off from the fold And there be no cattle in the stalls,  
<sup>18</sup> Yet I will exult in the Lord, I will rejoice in the God of my salvation.  
<sup>19</sup> The Lord God is my strength,  
And He has made my feet like hinds’ feet,  
And makes me walk on my high places. (Hab.3:17-19)***

Here we have a whole litany of problems and hardships, and where the average person would be moaning and complaining and asking why – the prophet says: ***“Yet I will exult in the Lord, I will rejoice in the God of my salvation.”***

The key is the next verse, vs.19: ***“The Lord God is my strength,”***

You see, his sights were not on his problems, but fairly and squarely on the Lord, who was his strength.

There are so many examples I could give, but as I wrote this sermon, Martin Luther came to mind. He had many problems and difficulties. He had many enemies, and his very life was threatened, yet he wrote: ***“A mighty fortress is our God, a bulwark never failing;  
Our helper He, amid the flood of mortal ills prevailing”***

Luther’s focus was right, it was not upon himself, but upon God. God used him mightily. Had Luther got caught up in his problems, and let the opposition get him down and discourage him; had he backed away from God’s Word when threatened, who knows where we would be today.

The crowds said about Jesus: “He does all things well.” Is this your confession as well? Do you believe that to be true? If yes, then praise God. Stay close to Him, and do not shift your focus away from Him at any time. No matter what happens, be like Habakkuk who said that despite what happens: ***“I will exult in the Lord, I will rejoice in the God of my salvation.”***

The result of this will be that God will make your feet to be light and He will guide you along the High places or right paths.

If you still do not have this faith nor confession; if you cannot say “He does all things well” then come to Jesus today and surrender all to Him.

Amen

Pastor Colvin MacPherson Latvian Evangelical Lutheran Church in Sydney.

All Bible quotations taken from New American Standard Bible.