

called the Owls; there were a few who did not go in with the rest. It seemed that most all were rejoiced to see the interest of their old church in them, and they have come back or are on the way. Six were eligible for membership, 12 or so seekers and about 19 children and infants; and there will likely be still more, soon to follow. Sunday morning one of our earnest young men, who had come from our Grootspuit outpost, enjoyed the work of breaking up the bundle of "Owl" sticks and making quite a fire with them: these were used by these people while they fellowshiped with the Zionists. Taking passages from the Bible such as tell of the rod of Moses and the cross of Christ, these people carry sticks of great variety and think that they are of value in worship and are inclined to almost worship them.

Yesterday I was up on a nearby hill where we have a few members still holding true to us. A new church, with strong backing, opened up about on the doorstep of our outpost in this section and several of our members and adherents, who found it an easier way to go, left us and joined this new church. We were glad to see Aida Shabangu, and to have her to the service as she is not likely to be with us much longer, as she is very ill. On my way down the hill one of our recent adherents, who was formerly a Roman Catholic, accompanied me and we had a very profitable talk. He seems to be hungry for real salvation but has not quite found out how to get through. I trust that he will follow my advice and that in doing so will be led to his Saviour. This young man seems promising as a possible future worker.

I learned the sad news of the death of one of the children of our Ngenetsheni worker. May God be very near and comfort the sorrowing parents.

We are looking for greater things in 1944 than we have seen in 1943. May God give us some big surprises as we work for Him, and do our best.

Christian greetings,

C. D. M. SANDERS

CORRESPONDENCE

Beals, Maine

Dear Highway Friends:

We feel as pastor in this part of God's Vineyard we have much to thank the Lord for. Our services have been good of late, with signs of God's presence in our midst.

At Christmas time we were kindly remembered by friends near and far. The people here were surely good to us, presenting us with a generous purse of money and other fine gifts. We are very grateful to them, and to our God who is the Giver of every good and perfect gift. We trust and pray that God will continue to work and bless our labors together.

Yours for souls,

H. E. MULLEN

Grafton Centre, N. H.

Dear Highway family:

Am writing a word to all those who sent us Christmas cards as we were unable to obtain any in order to reply to them. We appreciated them very much and would say, write again. Wife is in a bad way and is a great sufferer. Both legs and arms are drawn out of shape and she suffers constant pain. I have to stay with her constantly. It is the result of an

THE PASTOR'S MESSAGE

Romans 8:28

Rev. G. A. Rogers*

Paul, the apostle, seemed to be a peerless man in any realm. Divine revelation coupled with so many experiences in life qualified him to speak with authority. He received a vision from God and never lost sight of it through disobedience.

He opened the eighth chapter of Romans with the clear note: "No condemnation." This was his experience. He showed that this is the experience of any man in Christ Jesus who has been made free from the law of sin and death and now has life and peace. The carnal mind has been crucified and the Spirit is in full control. The Spirit leads in the ways of God and also interprets the will of God. This is made clear in the chapter between verses eight and twenty-eight. In verse 17 he stated the fact that he was one of the heirs of God and a joint-heir of Christ. He closed the chapter with the clarion note "No separation." The grace of God enabled him to be more than a conqueror.

Paul was conscious that everything seemed to be put into the crucible of testing during the period of waiting (verses 18-23). We are sensible to the fact that every system in the universe is being tried to its limit. The Christian cannot escape some real tests. Paul said that the sufferings of this present time are not worthy to be compared with the glory which shall be revealed in us (verse 18). Again he said that they are light and brief and "worketh for us far more exceeding and eternal weight of glory" (II. Cor. 4:17). Many offer their suggestions for the ills of our day. There were different views in that day. Stoicism said, "Submit to fate." We have some today who say, What is the use? They give up in despair. Epicureanism said, "Make thyself insensible by indulgence in pleasure." We have some today who follow that idea. Paul's view stood out in bold contrast to the outstanding views of his day. The apostle, a true Christian, was realistic in his views of problems that confronted him. He faced his problems with a confidence in a God who was greater than circumstances. He knew God had a purpose that would be for our good and His glory. Between the clear opening and the conclusive closing of this eighth chapter the apostle lifted up this challenging text: "And we know that all things work together for good to them that love God, to them who

auto accident when we were overthrown while returning from church while preaching at Franklin, N. H. We realize all sickness and suffering come from the devil, and that being so, we tried our best to strike at his kingdom and win away as many of his followers as possible by our efforts in the ministry, and thank God for the success he enabled us to accomplish, and if now he is trying to get back at us, I'd say more power to him, for the dear Lord never was so precious to us, both wife and I, as now. The associations and campaigns and camp-meetings and memories of them and fellowship of the brethren of the past, are a great source of strength to us in our trouble and declining years. The Highway is a bright spot every time it comes. After over 50 years of service I find Him the same loving Saviour. He is my Saviour, Sanctifier and Keeper.

Yours,

REV. C. S. HILYARD

who are the called according to His purpose."

Important consequences may emanate from one event which in itself may seem very trivial. From a single and seeming adversity good may come. They do not always come singly. Then again there may be a mingling of favorable and adverse things as one is seeking for the Father's plan. In the midst of trials true qualities may be brought out. In the fiery tests we should hold steady. The surgeon may use the sharp lance or even poison as a remedy for our ills. The crystal must be cut from the rock. The friction wheel may be used to polish the jewel. Are we willing for God to put the friction wheel on us? If we were to rush into a carpet factory we may see nothing but a pile of wool, sized, carded and pressed. We have to go up one floor to see the design connected into a web of beauty. The superintendent had a design even before we discovered it. The Divine Superintendent has a purpose. Paul knew that God was promoting in grace and preparing for glory, and he realized that all the ingredients must be put together to make the whole. The spiritual machinery might be a bit complicated, but he could afford to commit patiently to God's arrangements. In a factory wheels are not always going in the same direction. Out of apparent confusion a definite object is reached. Can't God take the whole arrangement in hand and bring out His glorious purpose? Paul carefully analyzed before he formed his conclusion. Let us hear his conclusion.

The essential question upon which the decision depends, or the crux, is found in verse 28. Break the text up and look it over yourself. "And we know" is a statement that is conclusive, certain and consoling. "That" is not to be overlooked because it is a connective word showing something else to follow. "All things" is a statement that is comprehensive. In its scope it covers the providence of God, the privileges of grace, the pleasures of salvation, the pains of afflictions and trials that the Christian soldier has to encounter here, and the promises of future glory. The word "work" shows something constructive. The "all things" that God permits to come are not destructive, but constructive. "Work together" is a brief way of saying co-operation. God will press disagreeable things into His service along with all His providences and the workings of His Spirit. "For good" is contributive to us when we discover His plan. We realize our frailty and His power. The perplexing things cause us to look to God for wisdom and lean upon Him for strength. "To them that love God, to them who are the called" is a statement that names a distinct class of people. Yes, they have met His conditions too. "According to His purpose" is a statement reminding us that God is not diminishing our joy, but is granting a blessing that is cumulative. "His purpose" brings us to a point of satisfaction. It gives us a great culmination here and a glorious consummation hereafter. His plan for us is that we conform to the image of His son. Then our spirit and life must be like His or Christlike. We may be made or broken in the test. We soften, shine and sweeten or we stiffen, darken and sour. If we take the right attitude, the "all things" will produce a tender spirit and a kind disposition. It will also put in us a fortitude that will enable us to be more than conquerors through Christ over every circumstance.

* Amherst, N. S.