



# FAITH matters

August 7, 2023

## ***God is at Work....and So Are We***

*“For we know that in everything God works for good with those who love Him, who are called according to His purpose.” -Romans 8:28*

Last week I received an interesting response to one of my Record Patriot articles. The person said, *“Our nation has been given up and is under God’s judgment. Whatever happens, I have full confidence that God has a plan and nothing we humans do will alter it.”*

### ***Well, that made me think.***

I could spend time on the theme of God’s judgment, but for now, I’m thinking about the second sentence. I agree with the first part. I also have confidence God has a plan for this world, but the last phrase got my attention--*“...nothing we humans do will alter it.”*

### ***Really?***

Can you really believe nothing we humans do can affect the course of history; that somehow everything is pre-determined and therefore, whatever happens must be part of God’s plan? Is there nothing we can do to alter climate change or political corruption, homelessness or hunger, poverty or injustice?

If that’s true, why bother with efforts to reduce greenhouse gases or personal recycling? If we can’t do anything to make a difference

in our world, why worry about war in Ukraine or starvation in Ethiopia? Why all that hard work during STAMP week? If our little efforts can't help move the arc of history in the direction of justice, why did Congressman John Lewis risk his life or why do young women and men volunteer for military service?

***Romans 8:28 has been one of the foundation stones for my life and ministry.***

I've seen too much pain and suffering to believe everything that happens is God's will, but I do believe God is at work in the midst of all things to bring about God's plan and I believe we are invited to be part of making it happen. Note the subject and active verb in the sentence: "*God works*". Then, the prepositions: "...*IN all things, FOR good, WITH those who love Him.*" That is to say, God is working with us in whatever happens to accomplish His good will in the world.

I love the prayer from the Order for Morning Praise and Prayer:

*"New every morning is your love, Great God of might, and all day long you are working for good in the world. Stir up in us the desire to serve you, to live peacefully with our neighbors, and to devote each day to your Son, our Savior Jesus Christ the Lord. Amen."*

***Our faith that God is at work matters, and our work matters, too.***

~Written by Rev. John E. Harnish

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