

God's Sovereignty

Colt McCoy BCS Game

The ratings no doubt dropped for the BCS National Championship game Thursday night after it was reported that Colt McCoy would not return to the game. But while viewership dropped, attention to Colt McCoy grew. After getting hurt and then losing to Alabama in the National Title Game Texas quarterback Colt McCoy demonstrated Christian maturity by accepting God's sovereign and good will.

After the game, when asked how he felt, Colt said, "I always give God the glory. I never question why things happen the way they do. God is in control of my life. And I know that if nothing else, I'm standing on the Rock."

Paul states a profound, comforting truth for the genuine Christian in Romans 8:28, "And we know that all things work together for good to them that love God, to them who are called according to his purpose." We all want God to use our success for His glory, not our pain. But God will grow Colt in new ways through this struggle, making his faith even bolder than before and his story all the more relevant. In the end, God will be glorified. It's helpful to reflect here on Joel Beeke's illustration.



The life of a Christian resembles the works of a watch. Open a watch, and what do you see? You see that certain wheels which turn in a counterclockwise direction are attached to other wheels that are working in a clockwise direction. Your first thought may be that the watchmaker is either foolish or confused. But he is neither.

Rather, he has so arranged the works of this watch and put in a mainspring to govern all its wheels, that when wound, though one wheel turns clockwise and another counterclockwise, all work together to move the hands around the face of the watch at precisely the right speed. Many wheels appear to counteract each other, but they all work together for the identical purpose of revealing accurate time.

Such is symbolic of the life of God's people. Some wheels in their life run clockwise, which provides hope that the events of their lives directed by God's providence are good for them, but other acts of God's providence seem to run counterclockwise, that is, seem to run against them. Only when their eye of faith is fixed on the great Watchmaker, who has planned everything in His all-wise decree, do they see and understand that He has placed the mainspring of free grace within their "watch-life" so that all providential and spiritual wheels work together for their welfare. Yes, believer, though much often seems counterclockwise and against you when you see one wheel of providence work within or against

another wheel of grace in various afflictions and riddles, yet your wise God knows exactly what He is doing. He shall work all things together to produce a divine and blessed result according to His sovereign good pleasure and eternal counsel.

WARM-UP

1. Watch the internet videos. Go to www.youtube.com and search for "Colt McCoy's Heartbreaking Postgame Interview - 2010 BCS Championship" You can also find it at www.nebraskafca.org.

WORKOUT

1. What is the worst suffering you have faced as an athlete? What has God taught you through it?
2. How does Romans 5:3-5 relate to setbacks?
3. Read Proverbs 3:5-6. What does this passage teach you about athletics and life? Why is it difficult to trust God?
4. According to Philippians 4:6-7, how can prayer help you overcome a difficult situation?
5. What does it mean to "consider it all joy" in James 1:2? When you encounter problems, is joy a choice or an emotion?

WRAP-UP

This week, memorize... "And we know that for those who love God all things work together for good, for those who are called according to his purpose." – Romans 8:28 (ESV)

PRAYER

Lord, thank you for using the setbacks in my life to conform me to the image of Jesus...

GOSPEL FOCUS

The Christian life is a process of renewing every dimension of our life-- spiritual, psychological, corporate, social--by thinking, hoping, and living out the "lines" or ramifications of the gospel. The gospel is to be applied to every area of thinking, feeling, relating, working, and behaving. – Tim Keller

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