



Bo's BLOG

Being a life-long fan of the Minnesota Twins baseball team has taught me a lot about life. There have been some great years—1965, 1987, and 1991—and there have been many good years—most of the 2000's, for example. But there have also been many years that would qualify as “stinkers.” Those were the times when it was difficult to listen to, or watch, the games. Those were the times my Auntie Bert would shake her head and say, “Those poor boys.” But as a life-long fan, you stay with your team when they stink, as well as when they're great and good.

There are some great and wonderful moments in life. There are many good ones too. But there are also days, months, or even years that are real stinkers. Times when we feel like we're going through things we would never wish on our worst enemy. It sometimes feels like it would be better just to give up, and some do. But it's important to remember that as life-long fans we need to work, or strive, or fight, or endure, or grow through those bad times in life. Doing so makes the good and great times yet to come even better.

Sometimes Christians think that they can avoid the bad times in life, if only they are good enough Christians. We've been working through Paul's letter to the church in Rome this summer, and chapter 8, verse 28 is often quoted for just this purpose—“All things work for good for those who love God.” But what Paul meant by good in that phrase is what your mother meant when she said, “Eat your lima beans. They're good for you.” God knows that what's good for us is not necessarily what we enjoy, but what helps us to grow in our faith and as human beings. And that growth, like adolescence, can sometimes be painful.

So really, as we go through the ups and downs of our faith and of life, it's much more helpful for the Christian to look at verses 38 and 39 of chapter 8—“For I am certain that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor rulers, nor things present, nor things to come, nor powers, nor height, nor depth, nor anything else in all creation can separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.” Now there's a life-long fan.

Shalom,

Bo