

Romans



Bitter!



**No thank
you!**



Ick!!!

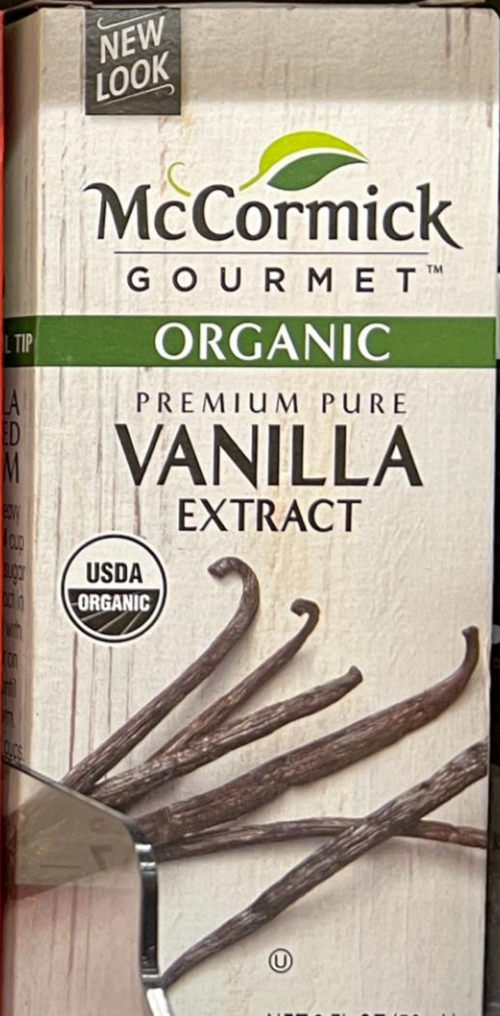
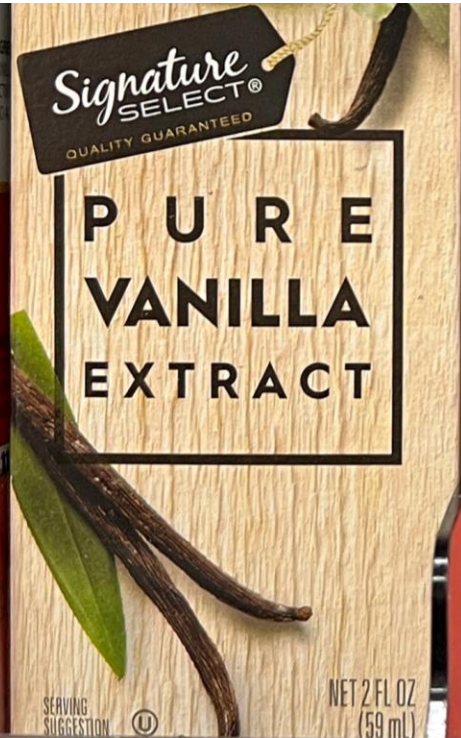
Baking Soda



No!!!



**Smells great;
tastes awful!!!**



**Not gonna
drink it!**

Crisco
Pure Vegetable oil

PER 1 TBSP
120 CALORIES
2g SAT FAT 4% DV
0mg SODIUM 0% DV
0g TOTAL SUGARS 0% DV

Cholesterol Free 0g Trans Fat* 1000mg ALA Omega-3 Fatty Acid*

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**Use it;
don't eat it.**



**Ahhh. But
the baker...**



**This, I
will eat!**



This is disgusting!!!



I'm all in!!!



What are your
life's ingredients?

A female doctor with a teal turban and white lab coat is sitting at a desk, holding a tablet. She is looking at the tablet and has her hand on the shoulder of a man sitting next to her. The man is wearing a blue sweater and has a distressed expression, with his hand to his mouth as if crying or in pain. The background shows a medical office with a computer monitor, a desk, and a lamp.

**A painful
diagnosis**

A broken relationship



A devastating loss



Dreams



Unanswered prayer



**A situation
that makes
no sense**



**Life's
ingredients
seem:**



Bitter



**Raw and
hard to
swallow**



**Unpleasant
and harsh**

Rom. 8:28

And we know that for those who love God all things work together for good, for those who are called according to his purpose.

Rom. 8:28

Οἶδαμεν δὲ ὅτι τοῖς ἀγαπῶσιν τὸν θεὸν πάντα συνεργεῖ εἰς ἀγαθόν, τοῖς κατὰ πρόθεσιν κλητοῖς οὖσιν.

**One of the
most quoted
and most
misunderstood
Scriptures!**





**Christian
cliché**

**This isn't just a
spiritual band-aid
slapped on deep
wounds**



Making My Family

Be the person your
dog thinks you are.



**This isn't bumper
sticker theology**

This is a profound and real

T R U T H



Context matters



Unpack the promise



Live the truth



Context matters

Rom. 8:26

Likewise the Spirit helps us in our weakness. For we do not know what to pray for as we ought, but the Spirit himself intercedes for us with groanings too deep for words.

Rom. 8:26

Ὡσαύτως δὲ καὶ τὸ
πνεῦμα
συναντιλαμβάνεται τῇ
ἀσθενείᾳ ἡμῶν· τὸ γὰρ τί
προσευξώμεθα καθὸ δεῖ
οὐκ οἶδαμεν, ἀλλ' αὐτὸ
τὸ πνεῦμα
ὑπερεντυγχάνει
στεναγμοῖς ἀλαλήτοις·

“helps us”

συναντιλαμβάνεται

“helps us”

συν +

αντι

+

λαμβάνεται

“together
with”

“facing”
“opposite”

“to grasp”

Present tense:

This is a constant
ongoing action!

“helps us”

συναντιλαμβάνεται

“2 people lifting together”



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“weakness”
“inability”
“powerlessness”

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Not “HOW”



But “WHAT”!



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Rom. 8:27

And he who searches hearts [i.e., God the Father] knows what is the mind of the Spirit, because the Spirit intercedes for the saints according to the will of God.

Rom. 8:27

ὁ δὲ ἐραυνῶν τὰς καρδίας οἶδεν τί τὸ φρόνημα τοῦ πνεύματος, ὅτι κατὰ θεὸν ἐντυγχάνει ὑπὲρ ἁγίων.

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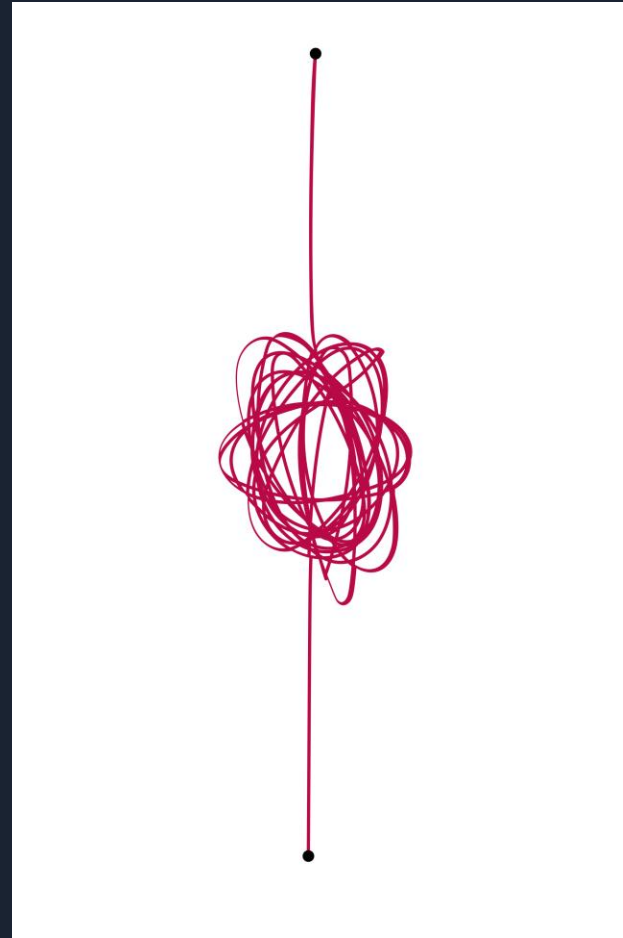
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Sometimes... words fail

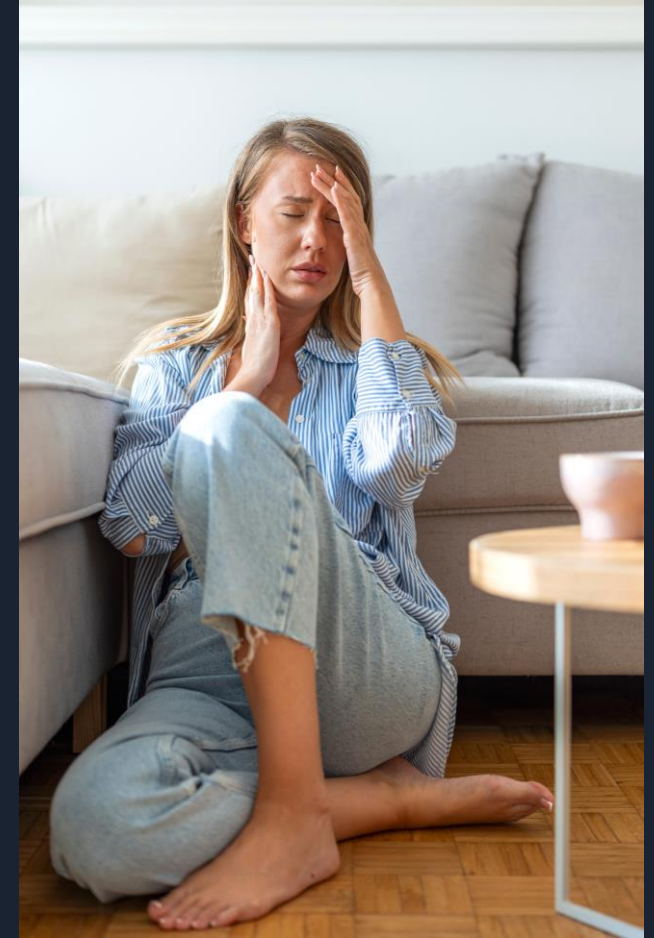
the need is
so great



the situation
so complex



the pain so
deep

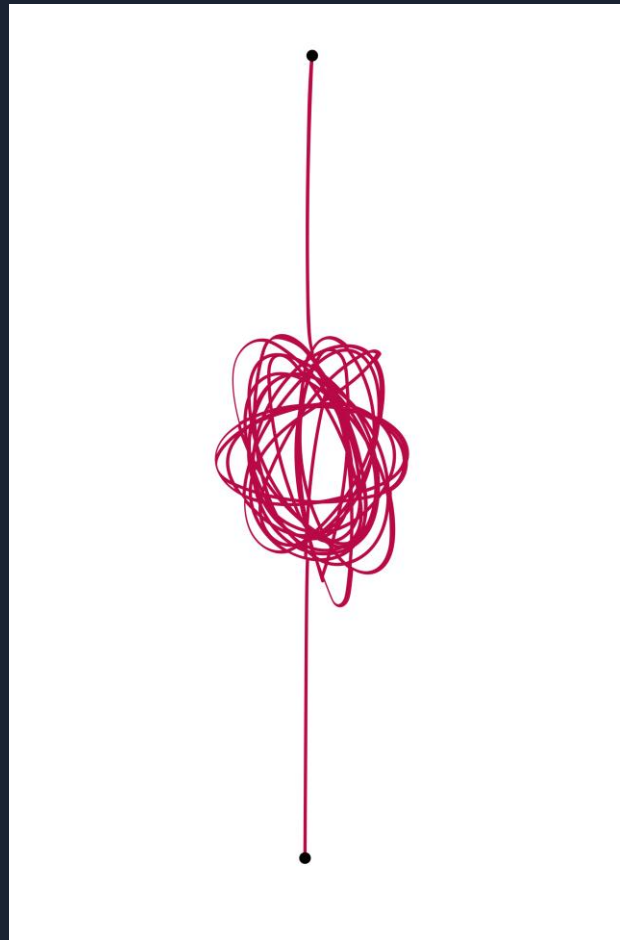


Sometimes... words fail, but the Spirit doesn't!

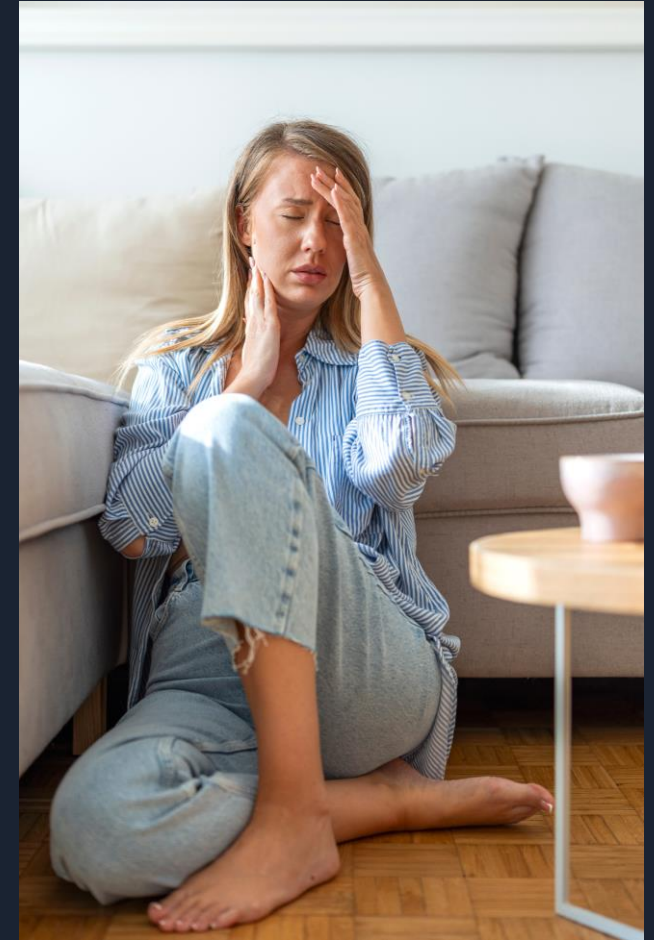
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Rom. 8:28

And we know that for those who love God all things work together for good, for those who are called according to his purpose.

Rom. 8:28

Οἶδαμεν δὲ ὅτι τοῖς ἀγαπῶσιν τὸν θεὸν πάντα συνεργεῖ εἰς ἀγαθόν, τοῖς κατὰ πρόθεσιν κλητοῖς οὖσιν.



Context matters

Without verses 26-27,
verse 28 could sound like
“cosmic optimism”





Context matters

Without verses 26-27,
verse 28 could sound like
“naïve positivity”





Context matters

Without verses 26-27,
verse 28 could sound like
“fatalism”





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Without verses 26-27,
verse 28 could sound like
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Context matters

With verses 26-27,
we understand our role
as well as the Spirit's!





Context matters



Unpack the promise

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EASY

HARD

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Rom. 8:28

And **we know** that for those who love God all things work together for good, for those who are

Rom. 8:28

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“we know” Settled, established

Οἶδαμεν Statement of fact

Something we can be sure of

Rom. 8:26

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This truth is for those in
a relationship with God



EASY

HARD



EASY

HARD

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Subject

Mark

Verb

teaches

Direct
Object

Class

Rom.
8:28

?
"all
things"
?

work(s)
together
"συνεργει"

?
"all
things"
?

ESV

And we know
that for those
who love God
all things work
together for
good...

NRSV

We know that
all things work
together for
good for those
who love God

NRSV

And we know
that all things
work together
for good to
them that love
God...

NIV

And we know
that in all
things **God**
works for the
good of those
who love him

CEB

We know that
God works all
things together
for good for the
ones who love
God

NJB

We are well
aware that **God**
works with
those who love
him ...**and turns**
everything to
their good.



We know that in all things
God works for the good
with those who love him,
who have been called
according to His purpose.

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“helps us”

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“2 people lifting together”



“helps us”

συν +

“together
with”

αντι +

“facing”
“opposite”

+

λαμβάνεται

“to grasp”

Present tense:

This is a constant
ongoing action!

Rom. 8:28

And **we know** that **for**
those who love God all
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Οἶδαμεν δὲ ὅτι **τοῖς**
ἀγαπῶσιν τὸν θεὸν
πάντα συνεργεῖ εἰς
ἀγαθόν, τοῖς κατὰ
πρόθεσιν κλητοῖς
οὖσιν.

Rom. 8:17

and if children, then heirs—heirs of God and fellow heirs with Christ, provided we suffer with him in order that we may also be glorified with him.

Rom. 8:17

εἰ δὲ τέκνα, καὶ κληρονόμοι· κληρονόμοι μὲν θεοῦ, συγκληρονόμοι δὲ Χριστοῦ, εἴπερ συμπάσχομεν ἵνα καὶ συνδοξασθῶμεν.

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οὖσιν.

Rom. 8:28 "A"

ΟΙΔΑΜΕΝ ΔΕ ΟΤΙ ΤΟΙΣ ΑΓΑ
ΠΩΣΙΝ ΤΟΝ Θ̄̄ ΠΑΝΤΑ
ΣΥΝΕΡ
ΓΕΙ Ο Θ̄̄ ΕΙΣ ΑΓΑΘΟΝ ΤΟΙΣ
ΚΑΤΑ
ΠΡΟΘΕΣΙΝ ΚΛΗΤΟΙΣ
ΟΥΣΙΝ.

ὁ θεός

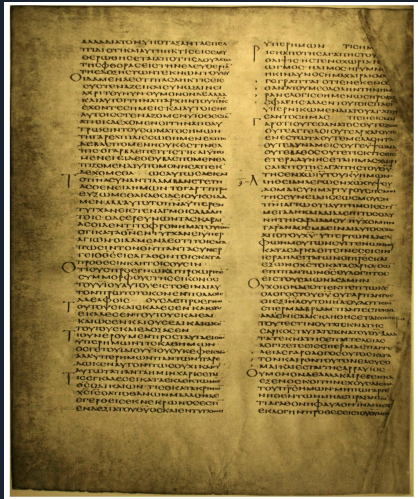
God is the subject!

Codex Alexandrinus (~500AD)

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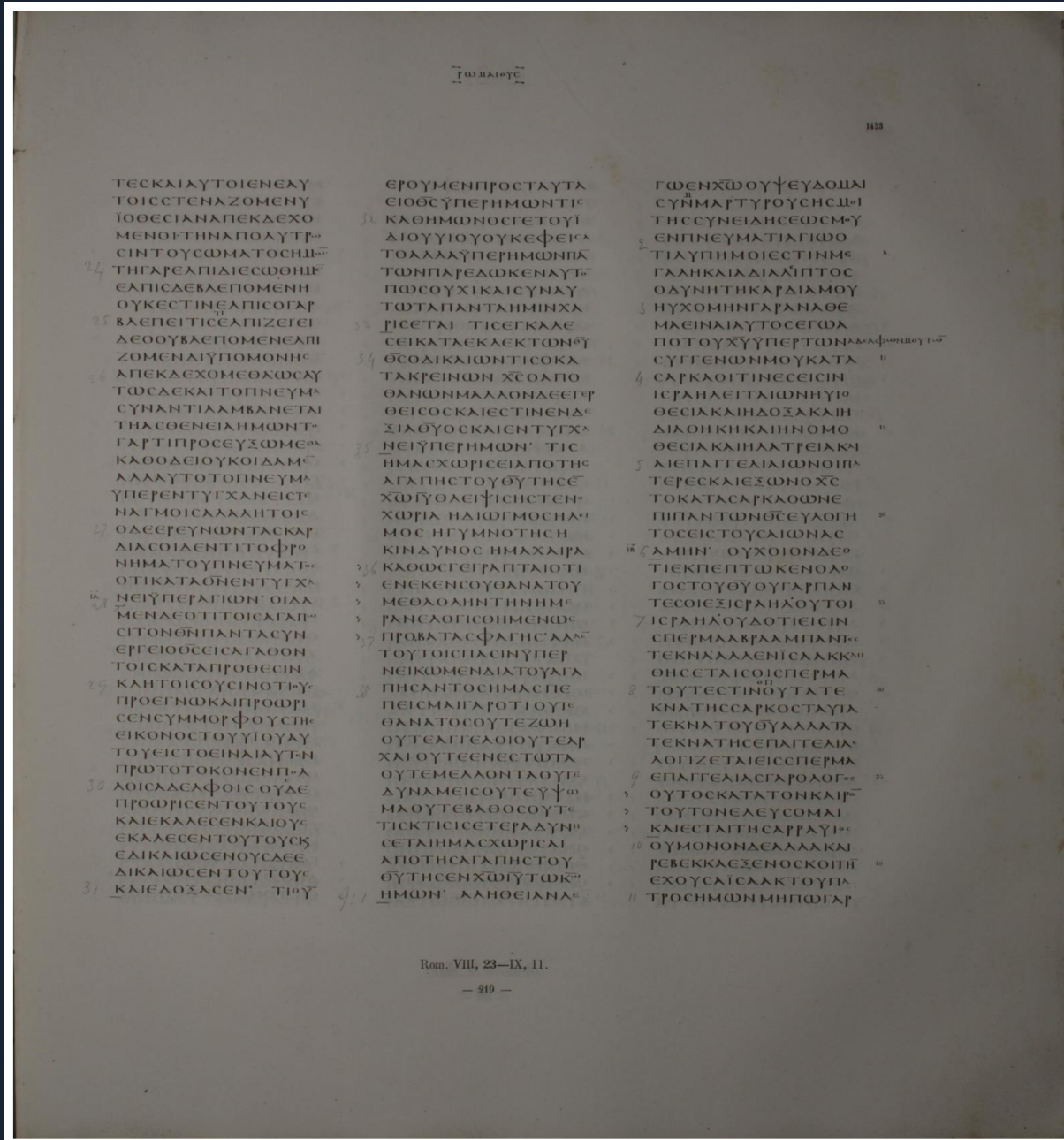
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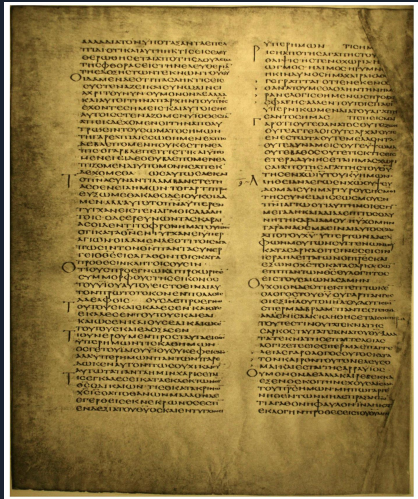
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ΠΡΟΘΕΣΙΝΚΑΝΤΟΙΣΟΥΣΙΝ·



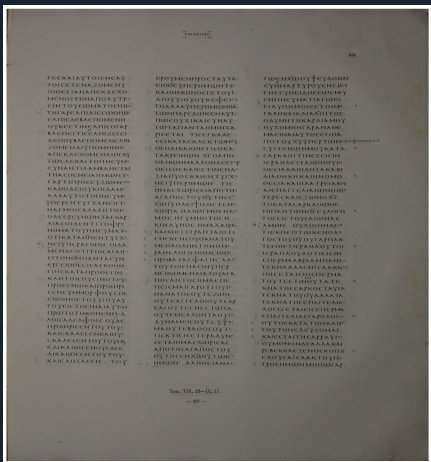
Codex Alexandrinus (~450AD)

Codex Vaticanus (~350AD)

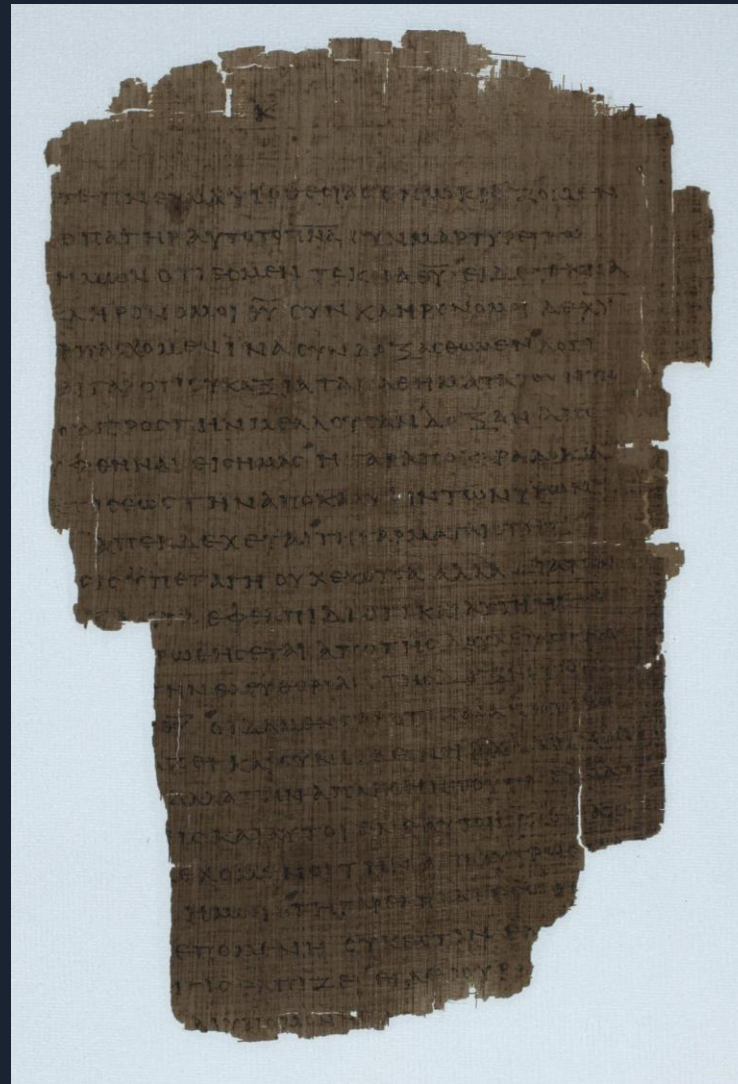




Codex Alexandrinus (~450AD)



Codex Vaticanus (~350AD)



P46 (~200)



EASY

HARD



EASY

HARD

Rom. 8:28

And we know that for those who love God all things work together for good, for those who are called according to his purpose.

Rom. 8:28

Οἶδαμεν δὲ ὅτι τοῖς ἀγαπῶσιν τὸν θεὸν πάντα συνεργεῖ εἰς ἀγαθόν, τοῖς κατὰ πρόθεσιν κλητοῖς οὖσιν.



EVERYTHING

Suffering?



Persecution?



Tragedy?



Sin?



God doesn't cause sin
or approve of evil

But God can use it for
good purposes

Rom. 8:28

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Rom. 8:28

Οἶδαμεν δὲ ὅτι τοῖς ἀγαπῶσιν τὸν θεὸν πάντα συνεργεῖ εἰς ἀγαθόν, τοῖς κατὰ πρόθεσιν κλητοῖς οὖσιν.



Context matters



Unpack the promise



Live the truth

Not everything
is good



But God can
use it for
ultimate good



We may not
understand
how or why





Trust the baker

Your suffering
isn't wasted!



**Life's
ingredients
seem:**



Bitter



**Raw and
hard to
swallow**



**Unpleasant
and harsh**



Points for
Home

We are working with
the Spirit!

“the Spirit helps us in our weakness”
(Rom. 8:26)



Points for
Home

Nothing is wasted!

“in all things God works for the good of
those who love him”

(Rom. 8:28)



Points for Home

“Good” = Christlikeness,
not comfort!

“in all things God works for the good of
those who love him”

(Rom. 8:28)

Lunch topic:

What are some ways God has used bitter ingredients to grow you in Christ's image?

