



*RCC Phoenix – 11.7.21 – Fortune Cookie Series (Week 6)*

1. All things work \_\_\_\_\_ for good...

This Scripture is most often “fortune-cooked” as a statement of \_\_\_\_\_ thinking or when a Christian doesn’t know how to respond to someone experiencing \_\_\_\_\_.

**Romans 8:28 NLT**

“And we know that God causes everything to work together for the good of those who love God and are called according to his purpose for them.”

Who defines what is “good”? \_\_\_\_\_

**1 Chronicles 16:34 NLT**

“Give thanks to the Lord, for he is good! His faithful love endures forever.”

**Ezra 3:11 NLT**

“With praise and thanks, they sang this song to the Lord: “He is so good! His faithful love for Israel endures forever!”

**Psalms 25:8 NLT**

“The Lord is good and does what is right; he shows the proper path to those who go astray.”

If our message only works for our \_\_\_\_\_, it’s \_\_\_\_\_ the true Gospel.

Life situations may not work out in a way that we interpret as “\_\_\_\_\_.”

What if God deems that \_\_\_\_\_ is “good” for us to accomplish His purpose?

**2 Timothy 4:1-5 NLT**

“I solemnly urge you in the presence of God and Christ Jesus, who will someday judge the living and the dead when he comes to set up his Kingdom: Preach the word of God. Be prepared, whether the time is favorable or not. Patiently correct, rebuke, and encourage your people with good teaching. For a time is coming when people will no longer listen to sound and wholesome teaching. They will follow their own desires and will look for teachers who will tell them whatever their itching ears want to hear. They will reject the truth and chase after myths. But you should keep a clear mind in every situation. Don’t be afraid of suffering for the Lord. Work at telling others the Good News, and fully carry out the ministry God has given you.”

Christian Post Article 10.21.21

*“Nearly 70% of born-again Christians say other religions can lead to Heaven: study”*

“The survey, which looked at religious beliefs and attitudes toward cultural behaviors, polled 3,106 Americans ages 18 to 55 from all religious groups, including 717 respondents who identified as born-again Christians.

Born-again respondents were identified based on their affirmative response to the question, “Have you ever made a personal commitment to Jesus Christ that is still important in your life today?” They were also identified by their belief about what happens after they die. Born-again believers agree that “I will go to Heaven because I confessed my sins and accepted Jesus Christ as my Savior.”

The survey also found that among the top reasons given by born-again Christians for not telling others about their faith is the acceptance of pluralism. When asked why they don’t share their beliefs with others, born-again respondents chose “They can get to Heaven through their different religious belief,” “We shouldn’t impose our ideas on others,” and “The Bible tells us not to judge others” as their top three responses, respectively.”

*American Worldview Inventory published last month by the Cultural Research Center of Arizona Christian University*

“Of an estimated 176 million American adults who identify as Christian, just 6% or 15 million of them were actually found to hold a Biblical worldview.

The study showed, in general, that while a majority of America’s self-identified Christians, including many who identify as evangelical, believe that God is all-powerful, all-knowing and is the Creator of the universe, more than half reject a number of biblical teachings and principles, including the existence of the Holy Spirit.

Strong majorities were also found to errantly believe that all religious faiths are of equal value, people are basically good and that people can use acts of goodness to earn their way into Heaven. The study further showed that majorities don’t believe in moral absolutes, consider feelings, experience or the input of friends and family as their most trusted sources of moral guidance, and say that having faith matters more than which faith you pursue.”

Another devastating aspect of “fortune cookie” Scriptures is it disfigures the \_\_\_\_\_.

Paul refers to the Word of God is the \_\_\_\_\_ of the \_\_\_\_\_ (Ephesians 6).

When we bend Scripture to the liking of our flesh and/or culture, it \_\_\_\_\_ the message of the Gospel.

### **Hebrews 4:12 NLT**

For the word of God is alive and powerful. It is sharper than the sharpest two-edged sword, cutting between soul and spirit, between joint and marrow. It exposes our innermost thoughts and desires.

A “fortune cookie” gospel is a \_\_\_\_\_ gospel. It no longer cuts to the deepest part of our soul and fails to expose our selfish desires.

A disfigured gospel tells others they can \_\_\_\_\_ entrance into heaven, forsakes truth for comfort and ignores the truth of Salvation through faith in Jesus alone.

A fortune cookie gospel is untrue, incomplete, dangerous, powerless, intimidated, impotent & ineffective.

In short, a fortune cookie gospel is \_\_\_\_\_ the Gospel.