

Romans 8:28–30

²⁸ And we know that all things work together for good to those who love God, to those who are the called according to His purpose.

²⁹ For whom He foreknew, He also predestined to be conformed to the image of His Son, that He might be the firstborn among many brethren.

³⁰ Moreover whom He predestined, these He also called; whom He called, these He also justified; and whom He justified, these He also glorified.

“What is the Ultimate Good?” Romans 8:29-30

INTRO:

We just gloried in the reality that because God loves us and saved us, He promised that everything that pushes its way into our lives, good or bad in itself, God works together for our good.

In our text today we will discover the eternal good God is doing in our lives. To do this Paul takes us by the hand into eternity to look back at time. In our text, we see what God did for us before time existed. What He does in time, and what He will do when time ends.

I. What God Did. (Romans 8:29)

II. What God does and will do. (Romans 8:30)

I. What God Did. (Romans 8:29)

Romans 8:29 *“For whom He foreknew, He also predestined to be conformed to the image of His Son, that He might be the firstborn among many brethren.”*

A. Connecting words are very important. While Paul’s argument in the Epistle to the Romans is tied together with many *‘fors,’* this *‘for’* in **verse 29** is different from the others. The other fors indicate support or a reason. The word here can be translated *“because.”* Paul wrote what he wrote in **verse 28** because God did this.

B. What did God do? He foreknew us. *“For whom He foreknew, He also predestined.”* He foreknew us. Notice it does not say He foreknew something about us or something we would do. This particular word appears six times in the New Testament.

1. Let me turn your attention to one other use in the book of **Romans**. In **Romans 11:1-2**, it says,

“I say then, has God cast away His people? Certainly not! For I also am an Israelite, of the seed of Abraham, of the tribe of Benjamin. God has not cast away His people whom He foreknew.”

This cannot mean God knew them ahead of time. It seems to mean that God loved them.

2. A second place this word is found is in **1 Peter 1:18-20**.

“Knowing that you were not redeemed with corruptible things, like silver or gold, from your aimless conduct received by tradition from your fathers, but with the precious blood of Christ, as of a lamb without blemish and without spot. He indeed was foreordained before the foundation of the world, but was manifest in these last times for you.”

The word the NKJV translates as ***“foreordained”*** is our word ***“foreknown.”***

3. Probably the best way to understand this word in our verse is in the sense of **Amos 3:2**.

“You only have I known of all the families of the earth; Therefore I will punish you for all your iniquities.”

The LORD is not saying there is a hole in omniscience. Rather He said, I set my love upon you Israel more than upon any other nation or peoples on earth.

C. The Lord also Predestined is to be conformed into the image of His Son.

“He also predestined to be conformed to the image of His Son, that He might be the firstborn among many brethren.”

He allows all those things to come into our lives so He can use them to fashion us into the image of our Lord Jesus Christ. The concept of ***“First Born”*** is not first created or first resurrected. Jesus is to have the pre-eminence over all of His people who will be raised and transformed. How important was this to God? So important that He predestined everything so it will happen. When did all this happen? This foreknowing and predestinating happened before time began. This chain of events happened before the world began.

II. What God does and will do. Romans 8:30

Romans 8:30 ***“Moreover whom He predestined, these He also called; whom He called, these He also justified; and whom He justified, these He also glorified.”***

A. ***“Moreover whom He predestined, these He also called;”*** Those who He set His love on, He predestined to be conformed to the image of His Son. Now the ones He set His love upon and predestined, these folks He also called. What kind of call is this? This is a call to salvation. Do you remember **1 Corinthians 1:21–24**?

“For since, in the wisdom of God, the world through wisdom did not know God. It pleased God through the foolishness of the message preached to save those who believe. For Jews request a sign, and Greeks seek after wisdom; but we preach Christ crucified, to the Jews a stumbling block and to the Greeks foolishness, but to those who are called, both Jews and Greeks, Christ the power of God and the wisdom of God.”

B. *“Whom He called, these He also justified.”* All those who God called will be justified. We know from **Romans 4-5** what justification is. God declares us righteous because of His great grace and through our faith.

C. *“Whom He justified, these He also glorified.”* Glory does not happen in time. Some aspect of the glorification we shall experience is told us in the Bible. In **Philippians 3:20-21** Paul wrote:

“For our citizenship is in heaven, from which we also eagerly wait for the Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ, Who will transform our lowly body that it may be conformed to His glorious body, according to the working by which He is able even to subdue all things to Himself.”

We read more about this transformation in **1 Corinthians 15:50-54**.

“Now this I say, brethren, that flesh and blood cannot inherit the kingdom of God; nor does corruption inherit incorruption. Behold, I tell you a mystery: We shall not all sleep, but we shall all be changed—in a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trumpet. For the trumpet will sound, and the dead will be raised incorruptible, and we shall be changed. For this corruptible must put on incorruption, and this mortal must put on immortality. So when this corruptible has put on incorruption, and this mortal has put on immortality, then shall be brought to pass the saying that is written: ‘Death is swallowed up in victory.’

How Do We Apply This?

The application of this reality follows in **Romans 8:31-39**. We will look at that next time we are together, Lord willing. Until then I offer a couple of applications from other texts. First, we must carry out Paul’s application in **Philippians 4:1** *“Therefore, my beloved and longed-for brethren, my joy and crown, so stand fast in the Lord, beloved.”*

Second, when I was a boy I was taught to put my name in place of the whosoever of **John 3:16**. If you know the Lord Jesus Christ as your savior, you should put your name in this passage.

Hymn #202 *Amazing Grace*