

GOD FOR US: A Study in Romans 8

Complete in Christ - Romans 8:29-30

August 20, 2017

And those whom he predestined he also called, and those whom he called he also justified, and those whom he justified he also glorified. - **Romans 8:29**

I. FOREKNOWN, PREDESTINED, AND CONFORMED

- To be foreknown is to be fore-loved. It is to be known by God with a particular interest and affection (Gen. 18:19; Exod. 2:25; Ps. 1:6; 144:3; Jer. 1:5; Amos 3:2; Hosea 13:5; Matt. 7:23; 1 Cor. 8:3; Gal. 4:9; 2 Tim. 2:19; 1 John 3:1).
- To predestine means to make a plan beforehand and to put it into motion. When God ordains, nothing in all creation can change the ending (Deut. 18:9-21; Ps. 33:11; Prov. 16:33; Isa 45:9-11; 46:8-11; 48:3; Acts 4:27-28).
- God is working in believers for their good (their salvation). That salvation includes sanctification (being conformed to the image of Christ). Jesus will not be the only one in heaven (Rev. 5:9; 7:9).

II. CALLED, JUSTIFIED, AND GLORIFIED

- There is a natural order here. When God predestines, it is expressed in his calling, which always leads to justification and will surely result in glorification (vs. 30).
- To be called is to be chosen (John 6:36-37, 44, 65).
- To be justified is to be declared by God to be righteous. This is an “alien” righteousness to us. It does not belong to us by our own work, it is ours by the work of Christ (Rom. 3:23; 8:3-4).
- To be glorified is to be free from sin and perfected in body and soul. Here Paul speaks of a future event in the past tense, so sure is he that it must come to pass (Rom. 8:18-21).
- God finishes what he starts (Phil. 1:6).

Main Point: Salvation resembles a chain of six links, each of which builds on the next, all of which are unbreakable.

KNOW: God has been at work in our salvation from beginning to end. It is his work, and he will see it through to the end. Salvation will be completed, and Jesus will share eternity as the unique Son of God with many brethren.

DO: Take great confidence in your salvation. It is unbreakable.

Recommended Reading:

Hand in Hand, Randy Alcorn (LifePoint Library #231 ALC)
Evangelism and the Sovereignty of God, J.I. Packer
The Theology of John Wesley, Kenneth J. Collins

Questions/Discovery Points for Life Groups/Families

Please read Romans 8:29-30

1. According to Paul, what does God know about us?
2. Where do you see the preeminence of Christ in our text from Sunday?
3. In what ways does a passage like this increase your confidence in your faith?
4. What questions arise in your mind when you hear or read the word “predestined”?
5. Does a text like ours from Sunday motivate you toward holiness? Does knowing your salvation is secure help or hinder that?
6. What stood out to you in Sunday’s message?