

Romans

Romans Chapter Eight

Romans 8:30

January 30, 2011

This is lesson number 75 in our exposition of the Book of Romans.

The Theme of the Letter

“For I am not ashamed of **the gospel of Christ**, for it is the **power** of God to salvation for everyone who believes, for the Jew first and also for the Greek. For in it the **righteousness of God** is **revealed** from faith to faith; as it is written, ‘The just shall live by faith.’ ” Romans 1:16-17

Title: Five Things That God Does

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.

Chapter Eight of Romans is about assurance of salvation in Christ Jesus. Just how much can we trust God to keep His Word? Can we trust God to manage ‘all things?’

The children of God are defined in verses 1-27.

Verse 28 is a summary of verses 1-27.

“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.”

When troubles come to us in this present age, and surely troubles will come, we can know that these trials and sufferings, no matter how serious they truly are, are not worthy to be compared with the glory that shall be revealed in us.

It is true then, that: **“all things work together for good to those who love God, to those who are the called according to His purpose.”**

But we **must not limit** our thinking to **what may be seen now** as we live through those experiences of trials and suffering that are taking place now.

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What we are to know, “And we know ...” is that before there ever was a creation, back in eternity past, back when there was only God, before there was light and before there was darkness, way back before there was a “then,” God purposed to have a people who would be conformed to the image of His Son, even the Lord Jesus Christ.

Genuine assurance of salvation must be based on the promise of God that those given to the Son by the Father will surely be glorified together with Christ.

Verses 29-30 explain verse 28. These verses tell us how certain it is that God will have His dear children to be conformed to the image of His son, the Lord Jesus Christ, and that Jesus might be the firstborn, i.e., He must have the **preeminence**, among many brethren.

But not only did God purpose to have a people, He so ordained {predestined} the events of time and circumstance {providence} to bring about His purpose and to carry it on into eternity future.

Here is a scene in heaven that is yet future:

Revelation 7:9-12

After these things I looked, and behold, a great multitude which no one could number, of all nations, tribes, peoples, and tongues, standing before the throne and before the Lamb, clothed with white robes, with palm branches in their hands, 10 and crying out with a loud voice, saying, "Salvation belongs to our God who sits on the throne, and to the Lamb!"

11 All the angels stood around the throne and the elders and the four living creatures, and fell on their faces before the throne and worshiped God, 12 saying:

**"Amen! Blessing and glory and wisdom,
Thanksgiving and honor and power and might,
Be to our God forever and ever.
Amen."**

Civilizations rise and fall, kings and rulers are raised up and put down, because God is sovereign over it all.

What is the extent of God's providence?

What is the extent of God's control {management} of His creation?

God determines the death of every single sparrow and very hairs on every single head of every one of the billions of people who were or ever will be are numbered!

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The disposition of every single particle of dust that has ever been stirred or will be stirred to float in the air is under God's sovereign control.

Proverbs 16:1-9

**The preparations of the heart belong to man,
But the answer of the tongue is from the LORD.
2 All the ways of a man are pure in his own eyes,
But the LORD weighs the spirits.
3 Commit your works to the LORD,
And your thoughts will be established.
4 The LORD has made all for Himself,
Yes, even the wicked for the day of doom.
5 Everyone proud in heart is an abomination to the LORD;
Though they join forces, none will go unpunished.
6 In mercy and truth Atonement is provided for iniquity;
And by the fear of the LORD one departs from evil.
7 When a man's ways please the LORD,
He makes even his enemies to be at peace with him.
8 Better is a little with righteousness,
Than vast revenues without justice.
9 A man's heart plans his way,
But the LORD directs his steps.**

And God manages everything without effort or anxiety on His part, so do not think that a single one of His dear children can be lost.

Don't allow some misguided preacher to trouble you with the false teaching that a person, who is truly saved, justified by faith in the blood of Jesus, can lose the salvation that is given freely by grace through faith.

My dear sisters and brothers we do not worship a frail and frustrated 'god' who has only made an effort to save everyone but, in fact, has saved no one.

That's what is being preached in many Baptist churches this morning. They preach that God's purpose is to save everyone and you, O Man are in control of your salvation.

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What does the Bible teach?

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.

Last Sunday we opened up verse 29 and explained the words ‘foreknew’ and ‘predestined’ and so I will not go over that again except to remind you that God’s foreknowledge **does not** mean that God simply looks into the future and chooses those whom He sees will believe in Him.

Also, Brother Gables pointed out that ‘foreknew’ has to do with God’s intimate knowledge of persons and not simply events yet future.

The view that God reacts to man’s choice is a very weak attempt to have man in control of his salvation and deny the doctrine of God’s sovereign choice in election.

Every step to bring a person under the hearing of the Gospel: the conviction of sin and guilt, repentance and faith, assurance of salvation, and finally to be glorified together with Christ is in God’s eternal purpose.

It is always necessary; at least it seems necessary to me, when the sovereignty of God is being emphasized to point out that nowhere in the Bible does the sovereignty of God do away with man’s responsibility.

Anyone who believes that because God has purposed to have a people and that because they believe the facts of the Gospel that they can continue in sin is deceived and is not saved.

In verses 29-30 the Apostle mentions **five things** that God has purposed regarding verse 28. Notice that each thing that he mentions becomes the subject of the next phrase.

Therefore these **five things that God does** are not isolated and independent.

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The person whom God foreknew has been predestined. The person who has been predestined shall be called. Those whom He calls will be justified. Those whom He justified He also glorified.

There are many so-called 'plans of salvation.' There are 'Five Steps' and 'Four Spiritual Laws' and many other such schemes to try to get men to do something. And that is the problem with all of them; they focus on what man does. Let's look at "**Five Things That God Does.**"

Those whom God foreknew He also predestined to be conformed to the image of His Son. God did not purpose **only to have a people in heaven** but to have a people who are **conformed** to the image of His Son.

The first man and woman were created in the image of God.

What is the 'image of God'?

Genesis 1:26-28

26 Then God said, "Let Us make man in Our image, according to Our likeness; let them have dominion over the fish of the sea, over the birds of the air, and over the cattle, over all the earth and over every creeping thing that creeps on the earth." 27 So God created man in His own image; in the image of God He created him; male and female He created them.

The image of God **is not a physical likeness** because God is Spirit.

The image of God is in part holiness.

To be conformed to the image of His Son is to grow in knowledge and holiness.

Colossians 3:10

... and have put on the new man who is renewed in knowledge according to the image of Him who created him,

Ephesians 4:20-24

20 But you have not so learned Christ, 21 if indeed you have heard Him and have been taught by Him, as the truth is in Jesus: 22 that you put off, concerning your former conduct, the old man which grows corrupt according to the deceitful lusts, 23 and be renewed in the spirit of your mind, 24 and that you put on the new man which was created according to God, in true righteousness and holiness.

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The image of God in Adam was distorted by sin.

The innocence of Adam became guilt.

We were all represented in Adam.

But before Adam sinned God had chosen a people to be represented in Christ Jesus and they will be conformed to the image of His Son.

The image of God is restored in Christ who is the express image of God.

Colossians 1:15-18

15 He is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn over all creation.16 For by Him all things were created that are in heaven and that are on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or principalities or powers. All things were created through Him and for Him.17 And He is before all things, and in Him all things consist.18 And He is the head of the body, the church, who is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead, that in all things He may have the preeminence.

Many preachers including myself have pointed out that a very important aspect of salvation seems to be missing in 29-30. The apostle goes from justification to glorification and skips **sanctification**, or so it seems.

Some have argued that the reason that sanctification is not mentioned is because sanctification is a part of justification.

But we must always keep sanctification and justification separate.

Sanctification always accompanies justification and a person cannot be sanctified who is not first justified.

But we are not justified by being sanctified.

God justifies the ungodly!

Confusing justification and sanctification is the damning error of all works based religions. The idea that God justifies a person on the basis of their obedience and good works is not according to grace.

When a person is justified obedience and good works will follow.

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But **back to the question** about sanctification being omitted.

That's what 'being conformed to the image of His Son' is about.

The way to be sanctified is to know that in all things Christ must have the preeminence. And thus be conformed to His image.

When tempted to sin remember that in all things Christ must have the preeminence. And thus be conformed to His image.

He must be the firstborn preeminent among many brethren, brethren who are being sanctified.

Hebrews 2:10-12

For it was fitting for Him, for whom are all things and by whom are all things, in bringing many sons to glory, to make the captain of their salvation perfect through sufferings.11 For both He who sanctifies and those who are being sanctified are all of one, for which reason He is not ashamed to call them brethren, 12 saying:

**"I will declare Your name to My brethren;
In the midst of the assembly I will sing praise to You."**

That should remind us of Revelation 7:9-12 and the worship scene in heaven.

“Five Things That God Does.”

Foreknew, predestined, called, justified, and glorified.

Since we have previously dealt with the first two things, foreknew, and predestined, we will take up the other three things that God does: viz. called, justified, and glorified.

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

These He also **called**.

Moreover whom He predestined, these He also called;

This is the effectual call of God that results in faith in Jesus Christ.

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God foreknew them, God predestined them, and in time God calls them. These are the 'those who love God, the 'called according to His purpose.'

This is what Jesus said about the effectual calling of God:

John 6:37-40

37 All that the Father gives Me will come to Me, and the one who comes to Me I will by no means cast out. 38 For I have come down from heaven, not to do My own will, but the will of Him who sent Me. 39 This is the will of the Father who sent Me, that of all He has given Me I should lose nothing, but should raise it up at the last day. 40 And this is the will of Him who sent Me, that everyone who sees the Son and believes in Him may have everlasting life; and I will raise him up at the last day.'

John 6:43-46

44 No one can come to Me unless the Father who sent Me draws him; and I will raise him up at the last day. 45 It is written in the prophets, 'And they shall all be taught by God.' Therefore everyone who has heard and learned from the Father comes to Me.

And so God calls.

The called respond in faith and are justified.

... whom He called, these He also justified;

Justification is always the opposite of condemnation.

“For I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ, for it is the power of God to salvation for everyone who believes, for the Jew first and also for the Greek. For in it the righteousness of God is revealed from faith to faith; as it is written, ‘The just shall live by faith.’” Romans 1:16-17

The just shall live by faith.

Justification is by faith. We are not saved **because** of our faith. We believe because we are called to faith!

Faith is the gift of God.
Never separate justification and faith.

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There is an error called ‘eternal justification.’ That teaching says that a person is justified in eternity past that it is not necessary that he come to faith in Christ in this life but that he will be in heaven because of election.

But as E. W. Johnson preached, “Justification waits on faith.”

In God’s mind we are justified but in our experience we are not justified until we believe God and trust in the righteousness of God in Christ alone!

Question? Called and then justified?

Why is calling mentioned before justification?

The person, who is ‘dead in trespasses and sins,’ is not able to respond to a call of God. Ah, but God gives the dead sinner the ability in the effectual call.

All five of the things that God does are in the mind of God. But justification comes in time. When the effectual call of God comes it is only then that a person is justified.

Romans 3:20-29

20 Therefore by the deeds of the law no flesh will be justified in His sight, for by the law is the knowledge of sin. 21 But now the righteousness of God apart from the law is revealed, being witnessed by the Law and the Prophets, 22 even the righteousness of God, through faith in Jesus Christ, to all and on all who believe. For there is no difference; 23 for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God, 24 being justified freely by His grace through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus, 25 whom God set forth as a propitiation by His blood, through faith, to demonstrate His righteousness, because in His forbearance God had passed over the sins that were previously committed, 26 to demonstrate at the present time His righteousness, that He might be just and the justifier of the one who has faith in Jesus. 27 Where is boasting then? It is excluded. By what law? Of works? No, but by the law of faith. 28 Therefore we conclude that a man is justified by faith apart from the deeds of the law.

Acts 13:48

Now when the Gentiles heard this, they were glad and glorified the word of the Lord. And as many as had been appointed to eternal life believed.

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Acts 16:14

Now a certain woman named Lydia heard us. She was a seller of purple from the city of Thyatira, who worshiped God. The Lord opened her heart to heed the things spoken by Paul.

2 Timothy 1:8-9

Therefore do not be ashamed of the testimony of our Lord, nor of me His prisoner, but share with me in the sufferings for the gospel according to the power of God, 9 who has saved us and called us with a holy calling, not according to our works, but according to His own purpose and grace which was given to us in Christ Jesus before time began,

So God Calls and God justifies.

Glorified

... and whom He justified, these He also glorified.

In one of two ways every child of God will be given a new body {8:11, 23}. Raised from the dead at His coming or if alive at His coming changed and given a new glorified body in the image of His own Son.

Philippians 3:20-21

20 For our citizenship is in heaven, from which we also eagerly wait for the Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ, 21 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.

So certain is the future glorification of every believer, even though it is now our 'hope' therefore yet future, so certain is glorification that it is here stated as though it has already been realized.

... these He also glorified. Past tense.

In the mind of God His dear children are already glorified because He sees them 'in Christ.'

William Hendriksen points out that Jude 14 and most of Isaiah 53 indicates the **certainty of the future event** as if it has already taken place.

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Jude 14-15

14 Now Enoch, the seventh from Adam, prophesied about these men also, saying, "Behold, the Lord comes with ten thousands of His saints, 15 to execute judgment on all, to convict all who are ungodly among them of all their ungodly deeds which they have committed in an ungodly way, and of all the harsh things which ungodly sinners have spoken against Him."

Some of you may remember when we studied Jude and said that Jude was perhaps the most contemporary book of the Bible. Jude warns about error and heresy taught by those who were leaders in the church. Jude warns about lost men who are in positions of leadership in the church.

Here is a lesson for preachers:

Back when I taught the Book of Jude I followed extensively the commentary by R. T. Kendall who taught that Jude was referring to the Second Coming of Christ. However, Brother Gables convinced me that since Jude is here quoting Moses in Deuteronomy where the context is the certainty of judgment of the ungodly is the correct understanding of Jude and not the Second Coming.

And may God keep me teachable.

It is a blessing to be associated with a preacher who will offer a different interpretation of a passage and do it in a way that does not create a public spectacle of two preachers arguing.

Judgment is certain!

Deut 33:1-2

Now this *is* the blessing with which Moses the man of God blessed the children of Israel before his death. ² And he said:

"The LORD came from Sinai,
And dawned on them from Seir;
He shone forth from Mount Paran,
And He came with ten thousands of saints;
From His right hand
Came a fiery law for them.

Read Isaiah 53 this afternoon and see how the prophet speaks of the suffering Messiah as though He had already gone to the cross.

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“He was bruised for our iniquities...” Not He will be”
Thus we have the certainty of a future event.

Some time ago someone asked me a question: “Jim, are you one of those people who believe that whatever will be will be?”

Proverbs 26:4-5 says:

⁴ Do not answer a fool according to his folly,
Lest you also be like him.

⁵ Answer a fool according to his folly,
Lest he be wise in his own eyes.

“Do not answer a fool according to his folly” but then it says:
“Answer a fool according to his folly,”

Is that not a contradiction?

What this means is that you must know what kind of fool you are dealing with so you will know whether to answer him or not.

I decided not to answer this person’s question because it appeared that he was a scoffer. But the answer is, and I heard Norbert Ward answer this way:

“Are you one of those people who believe that whatever will be won’t be?”

Again: ... **these He also glorified.** Past tense.

In the mind of God His dear children are already glorified because He sees them ‘in Christ.’

Perhaps the glory that is promised in the future has already begun to be realized.

2 Corinthians 3:12-18

12 Therefore, since we have such hope, we use great boldness of speech --13 unlike Moses, who put a veil over his face so that the children of Israel could not look steadily at the end of what was passing away.14 But their minds were blinded. For until this day the same veil remains unlifted in the reading of the Old Testament, because the veil is taken away in Christ.15 But even to this day, when Moses is read, a veil lies on their heart.16 Nevertheless when one turns to the Lord, the veil is taken away.17 Now the Lord is the Spirit; and where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is liberty.18 But we all, with unveiled face, beholding as in a mirror the glory of the Lord, are being transformed into the same image from glory to glory, just as by the Spirit of the Lord.

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Child of God you can rest in **“Five Things That God Does?”**

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.

The invitation **is not** to believe in election and predestination, and to trust that believing in true doctrine, will save you.

The **COMMAND** of the Gospel is to **“Repent and Believe in the Gospel!”**

Commit your soul to Jesus Christ who is the righteousness of God.

And doing so by grace through faith you can trust that what God has purposed He will perform!