

SERMON NOTES

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In The Grip of God's Grace

The Epistle of Paul the Apostle to the Romans

Romans 8:29-30 - "A Golden Chain of God's Purpose"

Romans 8:28-30, *"And we know that all things work together for good to them that love God, to them who are the called according to his purpose. For whom he did foreknow, he also did predestinate to be conformed to the image of his Son, that he might be the firstborn among many brethren. Moreover whom he did predestinate, them he also called: and whom he called, them he also justified: and whom he justified, them he also glorified."*

INTRODUCTION: Paul makes it clear that God has a great and good purpose for all Christians and He is working in all the circumstances of their lives to achieve it.

As wonderful as Romans 8:28 is Romans 8:29-30 are even more wonderful for they tell us how God accomplishes this purpose.

In Romans 8:29-30 we have what has been called 'a golden chain of five links' or 'five undeniable affirmations'.

In these five golden links Paul traces God's saving purpose from eternity past to eternity future. Beginning in the mind of God; consummating in man's glorification; each link in this chain is a divine act wielded by the hand of God.

In them we learn that the believers' security is rooted in the unchangeability of God's purposes.

Philippians 1:6, *"Being confident of this very thing, that he which hath begun a good work in you will perform it until the day of Jesus Christ:"*

The five links in the golden chain Paul names are:

- foreknowledge
- predestination
- calling
- justification
- glorification

1. Foreknowledge (vs. 29) *"For whom he did foreknow,..."*

Its common meaning is 'to know something beforehand'.

Some teach what is called 'foresight election'.

1 Peter 1:2, *"Elect according to the foreknowledge of God the Father, through sanctification of the Spirit, unto obedience and sprinkling of the blood of Jesus Christ: Grace unto you, and peace, be multiplied."*

I don't believe that's how Paul is using this word.

Why? – God knows everybody!

In the Old Testament, the Hebrew verb, 'to know' expresses much more than mere intellectual knowledge; it denotes a personal relationship of care and affection.

It's used this way in the Septuagint – 'to take note of', 'to fix the regard upon'.

Hosea 13:5, *"I did know thee in the wilderness, in the land of great drought."*

Amos 3:2, *"You only have I known of all the families of the earth: therefore I will punish you for all your iniquities."*

God's foreknowing us means that He fixed His attention or love upon us savingly.

It's called 'Election'

Who chose who?

Jesus said in:

John 15:16, *"Ye have not chosen me, but I have chosen you, and ordained you, that ye should go and bring forth fruit, and that your fruit should remain: that whatsoever ye shall ask of the Father in my name, he may give it you."*

When did He choose us?

Ephesians 1:4, *"According as he hath chosen us in him before the foundation of the world, that we should be holy and without blame before him in love."*

Why did He choose us?

Love & Grace!

But you say, 'that's not fair!' – it's loving, and wise bringing glory to God.

1 Corinthians 1:27, *"But God hath chosen the foolish things of the world to confound the wise; and God hath chosen the weak things of the world to confound the things which are mighty;"*

Man is not free! – Don't fight it!

2. Predestination (vs. 29) *"For whom he did foreknow, he also did predestinate..."*

It's not the same as election.

The word means 'to decide beforehand.'

What is it that God decides beforehand?

It's not to send sinners to Hell!

Predestination is only used for believers.

What is it then?

A. To conform you into the image of His Son (vs. 39)

It's knowledge with a purpose that could never be frustrated.

It's a moral likeness and glorified bodies – it starts now! (vs. 30)

B. That Jesus might have pre-eminence (vs. 29)

Ephesians 1:6; 12; 14, *"To the praise of the glory of his grace..."*

The truth of this doctrine should:

1. humble us (not pride)
2. bring assurance
3. foster love for God and a desire to live pleasing before Him.

3. Calling (vs. 30)

With 'calling', we move from eternity past to present time.

The call of God is the historical application of His eternal predestination.

It comes through the preaching of the gospel (the means to the end)

There are two kinds of callings:

1. general or universal

Jesus said:

John 7:37, *"...If any man thirst, let him come unto me, and drink."*

2. internal, specific, and effectual
It means that with the call comes an ability to respond.

It's the work of the Holy Spirit!

Acts 9:4-5, "And he fell to the earth, and heard a voice saying unto him, Saul, Saul, why persecutest thou me? 5 And he said, Who art thou, Lord? And the Lord said, I am Jesus whom thou persecutest: it is hard for thee to kick against the pricks."

You must come when the Spirit calls

Hebrews 3:15, "While it is said, To day if ye will hear his voice, harden not your hearts, as in the provocation."

Faith before regeneration!

4. Justification (vs. 30)

The moment you believe, or trust Christ to save you, you re justified.

We've already studied this in detail in Romans 3:28 (See Notes) It's not by the Law, but by grace, through faith.

What is justification?

The legal act whereby God declares the sinner "not guilty" and imputes to them the righteousness of Christ.

2 Corinthians 5:21, "For he hath made him to be sin for us, who knew no sin; that we might be made the righteousness of God in him."

In Christ!

Romans 8:1, "There is therefore now no condemnation to them which are in Christ Jesus..."

5. Glorification (vs. 30)

Paul doesn't mention sanctification

It comes between justification and glorification.

Sanctification is glory begun; glory is sanctification consummated.

The purpose of Salvation:

- to make us like Jesus
- to bring honor and glory to Jesus

The progress of Salvation

- foreknowledge
- predestination
- calling
- justification
- glorification

Glory is the last link in the golden chain of God's salvation purpose.

Romans 8:17-18, *"And if children, then heirs; heirs of God, and joint-heirs with Christ; if so be that we suffer with him, that we may be also glorified together. For I reckon that the sufferings of this present time are not worthy to be compared with the glory which shall be revealed in us."*

It's God's remedy for the corruption in creation from the fall.

Remember:

1. The creation groans for glory (vs. 22)
2. The Christian groans for glory (vs. 23)

The most daring anticipation of faith is found in the New Testament.

The word 'glorified' is used in the 'aorist tense'

God's chain of five links are unbreakable.

What God has spoken cannot be broken.

John 10:35, *"If he called them gods, unto whom the word of God came, and the scripture cannot be broken;"*

Jesus is the Good Shepherd – He starts with 100 sheep and He ends with 100 sheep!

Again, the truth of this doctrine should:

1. Humble you
2. Bless you
3. Foster love in you

How should we respond?

John 6:37, *"All that the Father giveth me shall come to me; and him that cometh to me I will in no wise cast out."*

