

ROMANS 8:29 PART 1

REVIEW: Read, 8:28-30

- **CALLED:** The GK word is Kletos/KLAY TOSS; adjective.
- Used 11x, 2x in the gospels, 9x in the epistles. Used 4x in Rom.
 - **Rom. 1:1, 6. 7.** 8:28, Rev. 17:14
- (Henry Alford) Where by, before the foundations of the world was laid, God has decreed by His council, secret to man, to deliver from the curse and damnation, those whom He has chosen in Christ out of mankind and to bring them by Christ to everlasting salvation.
- The adjective "the called" is always used in the Epistles as an effectual call, a call which achieves its purpose. And it produces a response of love to God who calls.
- This is proved out by reading the next 2 verses, the call is so effectual that from it follow to all the called justification, glorification.
- This phrase, "the called" starts a sequence of strong technical expressions which are well known terms in Pauline theology. (vs 29, 30)
- Each phrase marks a stage or development in their heavenward pilgrimage and each seen from the perspective of God's choice, God's initiative and Gods care.
- It is for God to call; it is for man to respond.
- God's choice always precedes and goes before man's choice; whether or not man is conscious of it.
- The fact that anyone truly loves God is attributed solely to His sovereign grace.
 - We love Him because He first loved us. 1 Jn. 4:19.
- This great truth humbles the pride of man and elevates the glory, greatness, the mercy and the love of God.
- A final thought on "called." Why does Paul use this distinction or description for God's people? Because it is the only explanation of why these people love God.

PURPOSE: A setting forth. The object, aim or end that God has set, a settled intention or design, a setting forth of a thing, with certainty of fulfillment.

- We see in verse 28 that God has a purpose in our calling, our salvation. He has an ultimate eternal plan, which we see in vs. 29-30.
- The gospel call is not "be saved" and then do your own thing, it is for and of His purpose.
- The path which we have freely followed is a path which had been mapped out for us in the purposes of God.

INTRO:

- These 3 verses are absolutely amazing verses.
- They bring us into the very heart, mind and eternal purposes of God.
- They tell us of a certainty that all things work together for good to the those loving God. The ones who have been called by Him unto His purpose.
- This absolute and ultimate good, which is promised to the lovers of God, promised by Him who cannot lie,
- God who has predestined His children to His chosen end, "to be conformed to the image of His Son Jesus Christ that Christ may be the First-born of many brethren."
- To this blessed end all things for the Christian flow from the foreknowing love of God for us, to the final glorification.
- It all flows for us by the will and purpose of God as an unbreakable golden chain from eternity past to infinity eternal.
- God who rules sovereignly over all things, rules all things for our good to conform us to the image of His Son, that He may be the First born.
- No wonder Paul says all things are ours. 1 Cor. 3:21-23
- Now let's look closer into these things.

VS. 29

- This verse begins with an explanation of vs 28 notice the first word.
- **FOR or BECASUSE:**
- Here Paul begins to explain why all things work for good, because for whom God foreknew, He predestinated them to be conformed to Christ and to them He called, and to the called He justified, and the justified He glorified.
- Paul here explains why he knows and why he can say, all things work for good, the golden chain, ending with our good, that is being conformed to the beautiful image of Christ.

FOREKNOW/FOREKNOWLEDGE:

- Foreknew: PRAG-IN-OHS-KO. To know before, to have knowledge beforehand.
- Used 7x 2 of which have to do regarding men's knowledge.
- The other 5 times are of God's foreknowledge.
- Acts 2:23, Rom. 8:29, 11:2, 1 Ptr. 1:2, 20 (foreordained.)
- As you can see, this foreknowledge is not idle, but with power is active.
- How many of us have not created something, and in that miniature creation we experienced a tiny bit of foreknowledge.
- The human creator, architect, builder etc. foreknows his project.
- He envisions it, he plays it through his imagination again and again.
- He sees it in his minds eye and imagines it fulfilling his purpose.
- He may even build a prototype.
- He senses it, sees it and feels it. Real in his heart and mind.

- In this finite way we foreknow.
- Now extend this idea to God and His foreknowledge, His infinite knowledge and power.
- One more thought about foreknowing.
- The word "foreknow" has an aspect of intimacy attached to it.
- For God to foreknow also hints at a deeper intimate knowing, it is relational and hints at love.
 - Amos 3:2, 1 Cor. 8:3, Gen. 18:19

PREDIESTINATE:

- Pro-or-idzo. (pro= beforehand, boundaries.
- A verb meaning to mark out beforehand the boundaries or limits of a place or thing, to pre-determine.
- The simple verb of this GK word is horizo, from which we get our word horizon. **MY DOG COLLAR**
- Used 6x in N.T. 4x predestinate, 1 determine before, 1 ordain.
 - Here, and 30, **Acts 4:28, 1 Cor. 2:7, Eph. 1:5, 1:11**
- Those here mentioned as "foreknown have the special and specific and blessed limitation put on them "to be conformed to the image of God's son, Jesus Christ. (SANCTIFICATION)
- Certainly, this is all things working for their eternal good.

CONFORMED:

- To render like, to bring to the same form, having the same form as another.
- Used 2x, here (Christ's glorious character.) and Phil. 3:21 (Christ's" glorious body)
- It is the outward expression of an inward essence or nature. The process of sanctification.
- Howard Hendricks writes that "The Bible was not written to satisfy your curiosity, but to lead us to conformity to Christ's image.
- Not to make you a smarter sinner, but to make you like the Saviour. Not to fill your head with a collection of biblical facts, but to transform your life.
- The one great good for which all things work is that we may be conformed to the image of Christ and the great purpose in view is that He may be the first born in the midst of many brethren.

IMAGE:

- **Eikon:** a derived likeness. A likeness taken from something else.
- Like a child's likeness to His parents.
- Used 5x, all with similar reference, all by Paul.
 - 2 Cor. 3:18, 2 Cor. 4:4, Col. 1:15, **Col. 3:10.**
- This likeness is not accidental, it is derived directly from the source, like from father to son.

- Also the word in Heb. 1:3, speaking of Christ to the father says, the express image of His Person.
- Man was originally made in the image of God, but that perfect image became marred and defaced by sin.
- And when God sent for His Son as the Last Adam, Jesus came and was in the form of God and we are to be conformed to Him.
- Now God's purpose has not expired or strayed but is again working to restore man in Christ to perfect conformity to His image.
- We are all to be with unveiled face reflecting as in a mirror the glory of God, being transformed into the same image... that of Christ.

FIRSTBORN:

- Firstborn. 5x... **Col. 1:15, 18**, Heb. 1:6, Rev. 1:5 and here.
- It marks out His Kinship with us, while yet preserving His own unique preeminence.
- He having the highest rank, authority and importance, being "first, #1, above and beyond all others, infinite. Col 1:18
- God's plan for those He foreknew was set before the foundation of the world, that He might be the "first-born" among many brethren.
- God's plan and purpose was to glorify the Godhead by having Jesus as the first born of an enormous, unnumberable family, all in His image, living to the glory of God and doing His will.
 - **Rev. 7:9-10.**

CONCLUSION.

- The grand purpose behind it all is the glory of God, and God's delight in surrounding His Son with many brethren standing with His image, doing the Father's will. All making up the innumerable family of God.
 - Heb. 2:10-13.
- The question for me now is, am I partnering with God for the fulfilling of His purpose in my life?
- Am I being conformed to the image of Christ, am I growing in Christ, being Christ like?
- Gal. 2:20 I am crucified with Christ, never the less....