

ROMANS 8:29 PART 2

INTRO:

- Today we will continue to gaze on the 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 good, "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 our 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.
- Any idea of human merit is absent from these verses, what is being stressed is the absolute sovereignty of God in all His purposes and actions.
- It was not the fact of our faith which was given to us in grace that moved God to foreknow and call us.
- The blessings and mercies here listed are the results of His eternal purpose in Christ. (**Eph. 1:11**) In Him also we have obtained an inheritance, being predestined according to the purpose of Him who works all things according to the counsel of His will,

Read, **8:28-30** let us do a quick review.

- **CALLED**: The GK word is Kletos/KLAY TOSS; adjective.
- (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.

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.
- The gospel call is not "be saved" and then do your own thing, it is for and of His purpose.

- Verse 29 is an expansion and an explanation of vs 28 notice the first word.
- **FOR or BECASUSE:**
- Paul here explains why he knows and why he can say, all things work for good,
- The golden chain, culminating with our good and God's glory, that is being conformed to the beautiful image of Christ and the exaltation of Christ Jesus as the Firstborn.

FOREKNOW/FOREKNOWLEDGE:

- Foreknew: PRAAG-IN-OHS-KO. To know before, or to have knowledge beforehand.
- Used 7x
- **Acts 2:23**, (counsel) Rom. 8:29, 11:2, 1 Peter. 1:2, 20 (foreordained.)
- This foreknowledge is not idle, operates with power, action and resolve.
- How many of us have not created something, and in that miniature creation we experienced a tiny bit of foreknowledge.
- Now extend this idea to God and His foreknowledge, His infinite knowledge and power.
- One more thought about foreknowing.
- The word "foreknow" has the aspect of intimacy attached to it.
- Rather than just meaning "to know the future in advance," the original biblical words imply an intimate, relational, and eternal affection.
- In key passages, God's foreknowledge is viewed as a sovereign, unbreakable act of choosing to love someone beforehand
 - **Amos 3:2, Jer. 1:5, 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. **Acts 17:26**
- 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 "predestined" have the special and specific and blessed design and destination put on them "to be conformed to the image of God's son, Jesus Christ. (SANCTIFICATION)
- And here we understand what John the beloved apostle meant when he said, "he who has been born of God does not sin."

Ended here last week.

CONFORMED: (Con= with, & Form.)

- To render like, to bring to the same form, having the same form as another.
- It does not mean a superficial likeness or shallow surfacy conformity to a form, it means an inward likeness and essence resulting in an outward expression of an inward essence, or reality, character or nature.
- Used 2x, here (Christ's glorious character.) and Phil. 3:21 (Christ's" glorious body)
- Believers ae to be conformed not only to something that is like Him, but to what He is Himself, both in Spirit, moral character and, body. (glorification)
- 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.
- Great doctrines of grace all have this goal in view, they point to the need for personal holiness, to true moral likeness to Christ.
- This likeness is not a superficial, surface likeness only, it is deep genuine resemblance brought out and born due to our kindred or family heredity.
- The outward conforming of the inward Christ.
 - Christ in us the hope of glory.
- Conformity to the image of His son is the destination to which the lovers of God, the called according to His purpose are appointed.
- This conformity will not be completed on this side of eternity but at our glorification
 - **1 Jn 3:2** Beloved, now we are children of God; and it has not yet been revealed what we shall be, but we know that when He is revealed, we shall be like Him, for we shall see Him as He is. Cor. 15:49, Phil. 3:21. (body)
- The one great good for which all things work is that we may be conformed to the image of Christ and from this flows the great purpose that He may be the firstborn in the midst of many brethren.
- Being conformed to Christ's image does not mean that we are to become gods, we will not become gods or sons in the sense that the only begotten One is the Eternal God the Son.
- Our relationship to the Father, to the Son, to the Holy Spirit is through adoption.

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.
 - **Col. 3:10**, 2 Cor. 3:18, 2 Cor. 4:4, Col. 1:15.
- This likeness is not accidental, it is derived directly from the source, like from father to son.
- Man was originally made in the image of God, but that perfect image became marred and defaced by sin.
- Now God's purpose has not expired or strayed but it continues, without fail, working to restore the man in Christ to 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:

- Conformity to His image or glorification, which is of the utmost importance, is not the final the climax of our pilgrimage.
- In this verse God reveals the final end, the final good to which all God's purposes aim; "that Jesus might be the Firstborn among many brothers.
- The word **Firstborn**; does not refer to His birth or His natural generation, but rather to "priority," dignity, and supremacy.
- Firstborn; reflects on the priority and the supremacy of Christ.
- He having the highest rank, authority and importance, being "first, #1, above and beyond all others, infinite. Col 1:18
- Firstborn. 6x... **Col. 1:15, 18**, Heb. 1:6, 12:23, Rev. 1:5 and here.
- It marks out His Kinship with us, while yet preserving His own unique preeminence.
- It is not us that are the pinnacle of importance, beauty or glory but Christ.
- It is His preeminence which is all important, His praise and glory are the final aim.
- The Divine purpose has as its great object the glory of the Son of God.
- God's plan for those He foreknew was set before the foundation of the world, that Christ might be the "first-born" among many brethren.
- God's plan and purpose was to glorify Himself 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.

- **We must see our life line here. It runs from eternity past to eternity future; it is set laid out by the will and purpose of God.**
- **From a long off past love, the love of God for us in foreknowledge to love for us in our endless eternity and glory.**
 - **Paul, a bondservant of God and an apostle of Jesus Christ, according to the faith of God's elect and the acknowledgment of the truth which accords with godliness, ² in hope of eternal life which God, who cannot lie, promised before time began, (Tit 1:2)**
- **We are secure in the salvation God has secured for us. (Jn. 6:44, Jn. 10:28) and sealed in the blood of the Lamb.**
- **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....**