



ROMANS 8:28 & 8:29,30

28 And we know that God causes all things to work together for good to those who love God, to those who are called according to His purpose.

29 For those whom He foreknew, He also predestined to become conformed to the image of His Son, so that He would be the firstborn among many brethren; 30 and these whom He predestined, He also called; and these whom He called, He also justified; and these whom He justified, He also glorified.





Romans 8: Where are We at now in our Salvation?

- The believer at the end of Chapter 7 finds himself in a hole he dug by purposing to live a sanctified life by the Law
- He was sanctified in Chapter 6 by reckoning himself dead, separated from his former life in Adam and its empowering sin nature
- But in Chapter 7 his fall from the staying power of grace reduced him to cry out: 'Oh wretched man, that I am!' but he finds Jesus Christ rescues him again, but this time as a saved man, not from sin's penalty, but from its power
- He has now the relief of being under no condemnation in Chapter 8— he finds refreshment in the empowering power of the Holy Spirit, and has a new mind, he is delivered, victorious, an adopted son of God, a child of God
- But now he feels, along with creation the pangs, of separation from his savior and his father, he needs to be brought up to heaven to be physically with Christ to feel satisfaction from the curse of earth, and the curse of sin on the natural body
- We need now glorification, the final and capstone of our salvation

AND THIS WAS ALL FROM OUR PERSPECTIVE / MAN'S SIDE OF THINGS:



NOW: WE FIND OUT GOD'S SIDE OF THINGS

Last week in v. 28, we had the comforting words of God working positively ALL things: dark things, bright things, happy things, sad things, sweet things, times of prosperity, times of adversity,

towards something, according to God's absolutely FIXED DIVINE DESIRE which He wills to be reality. (*'in His deep, eternal counsel before the world was made'*)

This He has formulated as his PURPOSE

Which is the believer's conformity to the Person and image of His Beloved Son the Lord Jesus Christ

He is taking all of His called, elect ones— marked out and separated from from the very beginning:

. . . just as He chose us in Him before the foundation of the world, that we would be holy and blameless before Him. In love He predestined us to adoption as sons through Jesus Christ to Himself, according to the kind intention of His will, to the praise of the glory of His grace, which He freely bestowed on us in the Beloved. [Eph. 1:4-6]



ROM. 8:29 For those whom He foreknew, He also predestined to become conformed to the image of His Son, so that He would be the firstborn among many brethren;

For those He called according to His **PURPOSE** (v. 28): is God's INTELLIGENT DESIGN; or 'Planned in'

Along the set, directional and fixed line of His intelligent design: He is taking us, along with all the believing (holy, blameless before Him in love; Eph. 1:4) others who love God together as a company of saints and forming a **New Body**:

That he might present it to himself a glorious church, not having spot, or wrinkle, or any such thing; but that it should be holy and without blemish. Eph. 5:27

SO THAT:

... in the ages to come He might show the surpassing riches of His grace in kindness toward us in Christ Jesus. Eph. 2:7

With the further purpose of:

*'Displaying this GLORIOUS CHURCH as the **MANIFOLD WISDOM** of God in those ages to come to rulers and authorities in heavenly places in accordance with the **ETERNAL PURPOSE** which He carried out in Christ Jesus our Lord ...' [Eph. 3:10,11 para. & HEB. 13:1]*



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God's Purpose, Newell says, is wholly apart from contingencies

CRITICAL POINT:

All of Romans 8: 29 and 30 **is all plural** – we as a plurality of believers: ‘these’ and those’ he foreknew, predestinated and called, and justified and glorified.

Toward a goal of creating IN CHRIST a new entity, organization who are able to act as a **consort, companion** to the Lord Jesus Christ in the Ages to Come.

To conform: is **symmorphos**— God is fashioning, forming us into His Son’s image into the same likeness

➤ *Is it similar to how the first Adam was formed in the garden?*

AN INDIVIDUAL BELIEVER: is taken through a process of getting FIT-OUT to meet that future, glorious role (The Word of God reveals this in a sequential format in Romans):

- i. He / she **JUSTIFIED** in Romans 3
- ii. He / she is **IDENTIFIED** by baptism into the Lord Jesus Christ; he comes a new creation, a member of a new race from Adam to the Last Adam in Romans 5, 6
- iii. He finds he is an adopted son, a child of God, an heir in Romans 8; and indwelt with the Life of the Lord Jesus in the Holy Spirit
- iv. So that: we can share **FULLY** in His glory as a like-companion of Him in the Ages to Come

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Christ is the **prōtotokos**, First in rank before us, His many brethren

He WAS the **Only Begotten** by God, the sole First Born

NOW: he is first among among myriads of like-minded, like-kind ones that are able to intelligently share in His glory

ALL THIS, verses 28, 29 and 30 is God's Intelligently Designed, mapped out, predestined, foreknown ANSWER to a Loved One's prayer!

“Father, I desire that they also, whom You have given Me, be with Me where I am, so that they may see My glory which You have given Me, for You loved Me before the foundation of the world. JOHN 14:24



ROM. 8:30 . . . and these whom He predestined, He also called; and these whom He called, He also justified; and these whom He justified, He also glorified.



SO THEN:

Doesn't it logically follow that with the Purpose set forth in v. 28, further revealed in v. 29

That He would accomplish all of Verse 30 accordingly?

- ❑ We are **predestined** for this purpose: a pre-set course, *pro- horizō*, or before horizon. The boundary / limits have been defined beforehand
- ❑ We are also **called**— not invited, but appointed to. We are 'called ones', as Paul was a 'called Apostle' (Rom. 1:1)
- ❑ Of course: we are **justified**, declared righteous, that was a settled fact back in Chap. 3
- ❑ All of these truths in Chapter 8 is God's working us to be **glorified**, and this is the aim of these verses
- ❑ A.A.I.: All these terms are Aorist tense, Active voice, Indicative mood; facts with no variation or shift
- ❑ "aorist" is *a- horizō* is 'without' horizon, or no bounding circle. No separation of time in these truths, or without time. *[Miles Driedger highlighted this in his notes]*
- ❑ The indicative mood is the mood of actuality / reality. These emphasize the FACT of all this without regard to time, space or other caveats



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Why then, all the 'Election' and 'Choosing' doctrines associated with these verses?

Calvin's 5-point system, Arminius's concept of conditional and unconditional election . . . One must be regenerated before he can come to faith . . . One can be saved but then fall from grace by not persevering to the End of it all . . . Limited atonement vs. atonement for all . . . How does God respect man's volition and free will in the timeline if He knows beforehand who will be saved and who is not to be saved? etc. etc. etc.

Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places in Christ, just as **He chose us in Him before the foundation of the world**, that we would be holy and blameless before Him. In love He through Jesus Christ to Himself, according to the kind intention of His will, to the praise of the glory of His **predestined us to adoption as sons** grace, which He freely bestowed on us in the Beloved. In Him we have redemption through His blood, the forgiveness of our trespasses, according to the riches of His grace which He lavished on us. In all wisdom and insight He made known to us the mystery of His will, according to His kind intention which **He purposed in Him** with a view to an administration suitable to the fullness of the times, that is, the summing up of all things in Christ, things in the heavens and things on the earth. In Him also we have **obtained an inheritance, having been predestined according to His purpose who works all things after the counsel of His will**, to the end that we who were the first to hope in Christ **would be to the praise of His glory**. EPH 1: 3-12

*** We can see how Ephesians 1 & Peter covers the same DOCTRINE as 8: 28-30**



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I. I believe the location of these truths, established by Paul and Peter elsewhere simply, being contiguous to, and buttressed right up next to Romans 9-11 is a great factor in the mass of doctrinal baggage associated with 8:28-30

God's sovereign election of the nation of Israel revisited and re-established in chapters 9-11 gives the Reformed theology world a siege wall in order to overthrow the Doctrine of Israel's earthly election by grace with the Church.

They would say: the Church now fulfils God's covenant promised to Israel, Israel failed.

II. Why is the Calvinist TULIP system and Arminius's Free to Chose Man, both concerned with an unregenerated man, a man in Adam nestled in their theology regarding the doctrine of election as presented in Rom. 8:28-30 ?

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IV. Should we be discussing the Holy Spirit’s salvation work of regenerating an unbeliever in relation to predestination, election, foreknowledge etc.?

V. That MAN belongs discussed under Romans 1 and 2! That man is located there

VI. He belongs nowhere in the blessed truths of Salvation, as it relates to ‘Phase III’s glorification of the saint in Christ

VII. We are on a high, high ground here an elevated platform where there is no space for discussion of the predestination and election of the unregenerated man. He is now found in Christ





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WHAT SHALL WE SAY THEN about the Poor Unregenerated Calvin, Arminian man?

Is there any hope?

Did God elect Him to eternal damnation?

NO!

Go back to him in Romans 1 and 2 and give him the Gospel of Jesus Christ!

For I am not ashamed of the gospel, for it is the power of God for salvation to everyone who believes, to the Jew first and also to the Greek. Rom. 1:16

And: he knows, he hears!

because that which is known about God is evident within them; for God made it evident to them . . . They are without excuse Rom. 1:19, 20

“Truly, truly, I say to you, an hour is coming and now is, when the dead will hear the voice of the Son of God, and those who hear will live.” John 5:25



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Merryman: *“by grace, God provides whatever is necessary for unsaved humans to clearly “hear” the gospel despite that they are dead in trespasses and sin”*

The Holy Spirit is relentlessly pursuing, drawing, convicting, wooing an unbeliever to believe with his heart, by whatever means necessary

He is not abandoned in his life time-line, and left unelected and hopeless as an act of God;

He is pursued

“ with unhurrying chase, And unperturbed pace, Deliberate speed, majestic instancy, They beat- and a Voice beat More instant than the Feet—” Francis Thompson: ‘ *The Hound of Heaven*’

