

Romans 8:29-30

Conformed to Christ

1. Don't Trip Over the Chain

- a. The so-called "golden chain of salvation" used as bondage to Calvinism
 - i. Calvinist *ordo salutis* (L. order of salvation) puts regeneration before faith
- b. The hardest thing about Rom 8:29-30 is not bringing preconceived definitions/ideas
- c. Dispensational study can cure your Calvinism if you let the Bible mean what it says

2. Review: What Comes Before

- a. There is a new creature in the likeness of Christ – 6:5, 7:4, 8:9-10, 16-17, 19-21
- b. The thread (chain?) is suffering now and glory later – 8:17-18, 21-23, 25, 16, 28
- c. 8:28 – 'all things' in our suffering work for good – Rom 5:3-4
- d. 8:29 – God's purpose is you in Christ, his resurrection - 8:30 – The same are glorified

3. 8:29 – Whom He Foreknew

- a. There is a need to rescue these terms from the Calvinistic confusion that exists
- b. "*whom he did foreknow*" – Foreknowledge in the Bible – 2Pet 3:17, Rom 11:2, Acts 2:23
 - i. This one of the weak links in the Calvinist chain (and it is in the beginning)
 - ii. Who are they? The sons of God, adopted, indwelt Spirit, waiting, saved, saints
 - iii. These are "them" in 8:28 for whom the 'good' is working together, but not yet
 - iv. They are called acc. to his mystery purpose to be saints by grace (not covenants)
- c. "*predestinate to be*" – not about how to be saved, but God's purpose for you in Christ
 - i. Calvinism makes the predestinated unknown people, not a revealed purpose
 - ii. Predestination is always about God's purpose – Rom 8:27, 28, 9:11, Eph 1:11-12
 - iii. Eph 1:4-7 (purpose → salvation) reverses Rom 3-8 (salvation → purpose)
 - iv. Overlooked passages on predestination – Eph 2:10, 1 Cor 2:7, Rom 8:18
 - v. This passage no more teaching a sequential order than 2 Tim 1:8-9

4. 8:29 – Conformed to Christ

- a. If you're unknown to God before the destination, you are not predestined – Gal 4:9
 - i. The predestination is not in a decree, covenant, or a persevering priesthood.
 - ii. Your position in life is predestinated, but not in circumstance, it is you in Christ.
- b. "*to be conformed*" - The destination in this verse is the image of his Son
 - i. *How?* fellowship of sufferings, resurrection– 8:10, Eph 3:6, Phi 1:21, 3:10-11, 21
- c. "*firstborn among many brethren*" – from the dead - 1 Cor 15:20-23, Col 1:15-18
 - i. Suffering now? You are being conformed to the image of Christ

5. 8:30 – Moreover... Glorification!

- a. "*Moreover*" – 'What's more' tarnishes the golden sequence by making a separate point.
 - i. *Over what?* Your position (predestination) in Christ, and resurrection.
 - ii. We won't just be resurrected in Christ (v29), we will be glorified in Christ!

- b. *“he also called”* - If you’re in Christ (God’s purpose), you are also called (necessarily)
 - i. You’re not Christ’s, adopted, children, elect w/o the Spirit of Christ – Rom 8:9
 - ii. Predestination only of those who trust the gospel – 2Th 2:14, Eph 1:12-14, 18, 4:4
 - iii. Calling not “step in faith”, “blind leap”, “still voice”, “God-given talent”, “silent”
 - iv. To be called of God → Rom 1:5-7, 10:14-17, 1 Cor 1:9, 17-18, 21, 26
- c. *“he also justified”* – If you are called by the gospel, you are justified by faith – Rom 5:1
- d. *“he also glorified”* – our hope of glory due to Christ in us by faith – Col 1:27
- e. This is not the order of salvation, but explaining the necessary consequences (:)

6. A Note on God’s ‘Sovereignty’

- a. Salvation as the work of God does not require God force love upon you as a ‘gift’
- b. What God did:
 - i. Purposed salvation before the world began (Father)
 - ii. Finished the work necessary for salvation (Son)
 - iii. Indwells those that trust the gospel of salvation, giving help and hope (Spirit)
- c. God does it all by grace, which should put our confidence in its place - Phil 3:3, Eph 3:12