I. FIRST, THERE IS GOD’S PROMISE.

A. We can have confidence in God’s promise-28a “And we know” …

B. We can have comfort in God’s promise-28b “that in all things God works for the good” …

1. This promise of God doesn’t mean that everything that happens to us is good.

   It’s referring to God’s big picture of His ultimate purpose that only He can see.

2. Neither does it mean that God is going to give us all the good things that we want in life.

   We must remember that God is working things out for His ultimate purpose not our personal purpose.

3. The life of Joseph is an example—Gen. 50:20.

C. There is a condition for God’s promise-28c “of those who love him.”

1. This promise is only made to those who belong to God.

2. Everyone claims this promise, but only Christians can be assured of it.

II. SECOND, THERE IS GOD’S PURPOSE.

A. God has a purpose for our lives-28d “who have been called according to his purpose” …

B. What is God’s “ultimate” purpose for our lives? –29c “to be conformed to the likeness of his Son, that he might be the firstborn among many brothers”.

1. “Firstborn” is where is get our English word “prototype”.

2. A prototype refers to a perfect model used for mass production (i.e. prototype car).

3. God’s purpose, then, is for us to be an exact duplicate of Jesus.
C. How will God fulfill His purpose in our lives?

1. First, it involves His omniscience (all knowing)-29a “For those God foreknew” …

2. Second, it involves His omnipotence (all powerful)-29b “…he also predestined”
   a. God chooses us to be saved—Eph.1:4-6.
   b. We also choose to be saved ourselves—Rom. 10:13.
   c. If we have no choice in our own salvation, then the biblical teaching of freewill or soul competency isn’t true—2 Peter 3:9 and Rev. 3:20.
   d. Somehow, in the mystery of God, predestination works hand-in-hand with a person being drawn by God (John 6:44) and believing and receiving salvation (Romans 1:16).