GOD'S PROMISE AND PURPOSE
ROM 8:28-29 / 9-16-20 / WED

I.   **FIRST, THERE IS GOD'S <u>PROMISE</u>.**

      A.   We can have <u>confidence</u> in God's promise-28a **"And we know"** …

      B.   We can have <u>comfort</u> 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 <u>good</u>.

                 It's referring to God's big picture of His <u>ultimate</u> purpose that only He can see.

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

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

           3.   The life of <u>Joseph</u> is an example—Gen. 50:20.

      C.   There is a <u>condition</u> for God's promise-28c "**of those who love him."**

           1.   This promise is only made to those who <u>belong</u> to God.

           2.   Everyone claims this promise, but only <u>Christians</u> can be assured of it.

II.   **SECOND, THERE IS GOD'S <u>PURPOSE</u>.**

      A.   God has a purpose for our <u>lives</u>-28d "**who have been called according to his purpose"** ….

      B.   What is God's "<u>ultimate</u>" 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 "<u>prototype</u>".

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

           3.   God's purpose, then, is for us to be an exact duplicate of <u>Jesus</u>.

C. <u>How</u> will God fulfill His purpose in our lives?

    1. First, it involves His <u>omniscience</u> (all knowing)-29a "**For those God foreknew**" …

    2. Second, it involves His <u>omnipotence</u> (all powerful)-29b "**…he also predestined….**"

        a. <u>God</u> chooses us to be saved—Eph.1:4-6.

        b. <u>We</u> also choose to be saved ourselves—Rom. 10:13.

        c. If we have no choice in our own salvation, then the biblical teaching of <u>freewill</u> 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 <u>drawn</u> by God (John 6:44) and <u>believing</u> and receiving salvation (Romans 1:16).