

The Holy Spirit: Sanctification and the Eternal Security of Believers

Romans 8:28-30

Part 8 (Glory—Part 4)

Introduction

1. Last time I mentioned that there are:

1. "Core" Christian beliefs (truths that must be believed in order to be saved)

- The Trinity (God is three Persons yet One God)
- That we are sinful by nature and need a Saviour
- That Jesus alone can save us through His life and work on the cross
- That we are saved by God's grace through faith and not our own personal merit

2. Christian beliefs of "secondary importance"

- Details on how Christ will return (pre; post; amillennial or pan)
- The issue of election and predestination (the difference between Arminian and Reformed theology)

Arminians—believe that ultimately the individual is free and capable of accepting or rejecting the gospel

Reformed people believe in the bondage of the will; that God has to free us, by miraculously intervening in our lives in order to save us (election and predestination)

2. Three differences of interpretation (Rom.8:28-30)

1. The "called" (8:28)

1. "Called" (an invitation only) (Jn.3:16)

2. "Called" (the effective or irresistible call—e.g. Paul Damascus Road) (Acts 26:9-18)

2. "Foreknew..." (8:29)

1. Some Christians take "foreknowledge" in Rom.8:29, to mean that God in His perfect understanding of all things, knew who would believe the Gospel and then predestined them to salvation

2. Other Christians believe that "foreknew" in Rom.8:29, refers to more than God's mental knowledge (Gen.4:1 ESV; Jer.1:4; Amos 3:2 ESV)

3. "Those who love Him" (Rom.8:28)

1. Do we love God because we heard the gospel, and, as opposed to other people, respond in love, out of appreciation for what God has done for us?

Or,

2. Is there much more to how Christians come to love God?

1. An approach

1. The cross: A firm foundation

2. The cross: God is incomprehensible

2. The statement of truth (8:28)

3. The five acts of God behind the statement in Rom.8:28 (8:29-30)

1. "Foreknew" (Rom.8:29)

1. Foreknowledge is part of God's omniscience/His being, "all knowing"
2. Foreknowledge can also mean 'to have a meaningful or intimate relationship with' a person

2. Predestination (8:29)

1. Definition ("Predestined") (Eph.1:5,11)

2. Unnecessary predestination (Eph.2:1-9; Col.2:13; 2Cor.4:3-6; Rom.3:9-18; Titus 3:3-7)

3. Interpreting "foreknew" in its context (Amos 3:2 (ESV); Jer.1:4; 2Tim.1:9b)

4. Predestined to what? (8:29)

1. "Predestined to be conformed to the image of His Son" (8:29)

1. Between now and heaven the Christian is charged with becoming progressively sanctified

2. Ultimately, the Christian is predestined (at Christ's second coming); to be finally delivered from the evil influences of life in this world, and to be eternally conformed to the likeness of Jesus

2. "Christ the firstborn among many brothers and sisters" (8:29)

3. Called (Rom.8:30,28; Acts 26:15-18; 2Thess.2:13-14)

1. Those whom God predestined from eternity, He also called in time
2. Those He called, He called according to His purpose (Rom.8:28), and,
3. Those He called according to His purpose, He also justified

4. Justified (Rom.8:30)

5. Glorification (Rom.8:30)

1. Definition

"Glorification is the final state of believers in their resurrection bodies in heaven, when they will be without sin and all earthly limitations, and will see God face to face"

2. Note three things:

1. That "glorified" is spoken of in the past tense
2. The justified person must necessarily be glorified
3. God's plan of salvation reaches from eternity (past) to eternity (future)

Conclusion