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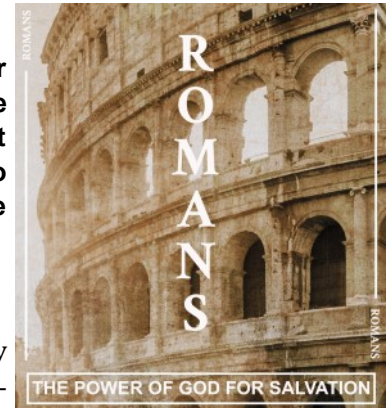
Message Notes | 02/23/2025

Foreloved

Romans 8:28-30

²⁸ And we know that for those who love God all things work together for good, for those who are called according to his purpose. ²⁹ For those whom he foreknew he also predestined to be conformed to the image of his Son, in order that he might be the firstborn among many brothers. ³⁰ And those whom he predestined he also called, and those whom he called he also justified, and those whom he justified he also glorified.

The Big Idea: The future glory of believers is spoken of as a past reality—as if it is already accomplished: “and those whom he justified he also *glorified*.” Upon what basis can a Christian have that kind of assurance? In our time together we will explore *why* our future glory is so certain by looking at God’s past eternal love—a love that *precedes, produces, and protects* our love.



1. His Love Precedes Your Love

Key Point: God’s love for us is not based on our love of Him; His love came first.

2. His Love Produces Your Love

Key Point: *Our love for God is caused by His love for us.*

3. His Love Protects Your Love

Key Point: *If our security rested on our love for God, we would always be in doubt.*

Discussion Questions

Romans 8:28-30

Getting Started

Speaking with Certainty - God is so certain about a believer's final salvation that He speaks of it in the past tense (v. 30). What are some examples of how we communicate our commitment to do something by speaking of it in the past tense? In what ways do people speak of things, as if they have already been achieved, to build confidence in themselves or others even when the outcome is uncertain?

Digging Deeper (*Read Romans 8:28-39*)

- 1) **The Golden Chain of Salvation** - In verse 30, Paul presents a sequence: "foreknown, predestined, called, justified, glorified."
 - a) Paul describes these as a complete chain of events. Why?
 - b) Which of these are past, present, or future?
- 2) **Understanding Predestination** - What is the basic meaning of "predestination," and what is the "destination" that this passage refers to?
- 3) **The Meaning of Foreknowledge** - Verse 29 says, "those whom He foreknew, He also predestined." Some interpret "foreknowledge" to mean that God simply knew in advance who would love and choose Him, and on this basis, chose and loved them (predestined them). How might this view fall short of offering full assurance?
- 4) **Enhancing our Understanding of Foreknowledge** (*Read 9:9-13*)
 - a) How does the passage in Romans 9 seem to challenge the idea that God's "foreknowledge" is merely His advance knowledge of our faith and choices?
 - b) If God's choice comes before ours, how could this reshape our assurance in salvation?

5) **God's Initiative in Salvation** (Read John 6:37-40, 64-65; 15:15-16; Acts 13:48; Ephesians 1:3-6).

a) Not only do these passages suggest God's love and choice of us precedes our love and choice of him, they also imply God produces and protects them in us. Where do you see that in these verses?

b) How might this change and/or deepen our assurance of salvation?

6) **Challenges and Questions** - What are some challenges or questions that you (or others) might have with the idea that God's choice produces our faith rather than being based on it?

Making It Real - Paul concludes Romans 8 with the powerful declaration that nothing can separate us from the love of Christ (vss.35-39). After discussing these passages, do you see this promise differently than before? How does this deepen your confidence in God's love and your salvation?

Resources:

Romans: Righteousness from Heaven | R. Kent Hughes

www.blueletterbible.org

www.biblehub.com

www.preceptaustin.org