



September 14, 2025

Salvation Belongs to the Lord!

Part 2 | Romans 8:28-30

Our Chapel on the South Campus features stunning stained-glass windows. As part of our recent renovation, we installed lighting so that even after the sun sets, their beauty remains visible - illuminated from within. These windows remind us of two ways we can approach them: We can either focus on each individual piece - its shape, color, and how it fits into the whole - or we can step back, let the light shine through, and behold the magnificent picture they create.

This is much like our study of Romans. Up to this point, we've been examining the epistle piece by piece, analyzing its theology and structure. But now, as we near the end of the doctrinal section in chapter 8, it's time to step back and take in the glorious whole - God's great work of salvation revealed in full light.

As Briscoe and Ogilvie said: "So far, we have looked at the epistle in the former manner, but now as we approach the conclusion of the doctrinal section we step back with the apostle and bathe ourselves in the glorious glow of the full picture of God's great salvation." (*Briscoe, D. S., & Ogilvie, L. J., Romans, Vol. 29, pp. 172-173*)

Romans 8:29-30 is Paul's pastoral encouragement to believers facing suffering, persecution, and the trials of the Christian life. Chapter 8 begins (v.1) with "no condemnation" and ends (v. 39) with "no separation!" This chapter unveils God's sovereign initiative, achievement, and ultimate fulfillment of salvation for His people.

Dr. David Allen notes that Romans 8:1-30 "consists of five semantic paragraphs in the Greek New Testament, each serving as the theological foundation for Paul's triumphant conclusion in verses 31-39. Importantly, verses 29-30 do not focus on how people become the elect, but on the assurance and confidence given to those who are already in Christ. These verses are subordinate to verse 28 and serve to reinforce its truth."

The "image" in verse 29 points us forward to our eschatological hope: "Just as we have borne the image of the earthy, we will also bear the image of the heavenly." (*1 Corinthians 15:49, NASB95*)

It's crucial to understand the difference between "causing all things" and "causing all things to work together." The focus is not deterministic control over every event, but the sovereign orchestration of all things for the good of those who love Him.

In Romans 8:28-30, Paul encourages the Roman believers by pointing to God's sovereign hand in salvation, so they can rest in assurance, grow in confidence, and remain faithful in their walk with Christ.



When you trust in God's sovereignty in salvation, you gain the assurance and confidence needed to live faithfully for the Lord.

Last week we were challenged to:

1. Rest in assurance
2. Grow in confidence
3. Live faithfully

As we continue our study, we will examine in detail the text of Romans 8:29-30.

"FOREKNEW" – to know in advance, to know beforehand, to have known in the past.

Proginosko – a compound word , "pro" – meaning "previous", "ginosko" – meaning "knowledge"

Usage in the NT: (Romans 8:29, 11:2; Acts 26:4-5; 1 Peter 1:20; 2 Peter 3:17)

"prognosis" – interpreted "foreknowledge" or "forethought" – to plan in advance

Usage in the NT: (Acts 2:23, 1 Peter 1:2)

"PREDESTINED"

"proorizo" - "to decide beforehand" – emphasizing divine determination rather than chronological order

Usage in the NT: (Romans 8:29-30; Acts 4:28; 1 Cor. 2:7; Eph. 1:5, 11)



Key thoughts:

In Romans 8:29-30,

1. Verses 29-30 are introduced with a subordinate conjunction ("hoti" – for), indicating these verses modify the information in verse 28.
2. Foreknowledge precedes predestination.
3. God predestined the conformity to Christ's image for a group characterized by belief.

Take away:

1. God is omniscient (*1 John 3:19-20*)
2. God is omnipotent (*Ephesians 3:21; Revelation 19:1*)

Revelation 19:1b "Hallelujah! Salvation and glory and power belong to our God!"

Warren Wiersbe provides a concise summary of these verses:

The believer never need faint in times of suffering and trial because he knows that God is at work in the world (*Romans 8:28*), and that He has a perfect plan (*Romans 8:29*). God has two purposes in that plan: our good and His glory. Ultimately, He will make us like Jesus Christ! Best of all, God's plan is going to succeed! It started in eternity past when He chose us in Christ (*Ephesians 1:4–5*). He predetermined that one day we would be like His Son. Predestination applies only to saved people. Nowhere are we taught that God predestines people to be eternally condemned. If they are condemned, it is because of their refusal to trust Christ (*John 3:18–21*). Those whom He chose, He called (*see 2 Thessalonians 2:13–14*); when they responded to His call, He justified them, and He also glorified them. This means that the believer has already been glorified in Christ (*John 17:22*); the revelation of this glory awaits the coming of the Lord (*Romans 8:21–23*).

How can we Christians ever be discouraged and frustrated when we already share the glory of God? Our suffering today only guarantees that much more glory when Jesus Christ returns! ¹