

I. Introduction and review.

- A. Upon whom does the success of God's plan of salvation depend? I Co. 4:7
- B. Should we even talk about such things as election and predestination? II Ti. 3:16-17
- C. It is important to understand predestination in its context. 8:18,28

II. God foreknew and predestined you, according to His eternal purpose. v. 29

- A. Is Paul saying that God chose you because He foresaw you would believe? v. 29a
 - 1. Those who promote this interpretation seek to defend God from the charges of unfairness, favoritism and interfering with man's free will.
 - 2. This view undermines everything Paul has taught thus far in Romans.
 - a. It makes the success of God's plan depend solely upon man. 9:16 I Ti. 1:9
 - b. The ground of salvation becomes human merit rather than God's mercy. 9:18
 - c. Because of our sin (total depravity) we would never choose God on our own. 3:10-12 8:7-8 I Co. 1:18 2:14 John 6:44 Eph. 2:1-3
 - d. Faith is the consequence, not the cause of God's eternal decree. Acts 13:48
 - 3. Even if this were to mean foreseen faith, the problem of fairness is not solved.
 - a. Not everyone has an equal chance to hear the gospel.
 - b. God still allows people to be born whom He foresees will never believe.
 - 4. Paul does not say that God foresaw their faith. He foreknew them personally.
 - 5. God's purpose will never be frustrated. 8:28 Ps. 115:3 Isa. 46:9-11 Eph. 1:11
- B. God *knew* (loved and chose) you *before* (the foundation of the world). v. 29a
 - 1. To *know* is to have an intimate relationship with, not merely to know about. Gen. 4:1 Amos 3:2 Mt. 7:23 18:19 John 10:14,26-27 Ps. 1:6 144:3 Hos. 13:5 I Co. 8:3 Ex. 2:25 I Jo. 3:1 II Ti. 2:19. Deut. 7:7-8
 - 2. To *foreknow* is to choose to love beforehand according to God's purpose. Jer. 1:5 Rom. 11:2 I Pet. 1:2,20 Acts 2:23
 - 3. Not all are chosen. 9:13 John 10:26 Acts 13:48
 - 4. When did God know/love/choose you? 9:11 Eph. 1:4 I Pe. 1:20 Rev. 13:8
 - 5. Why did God choose you? II Ti. 1:9 Titus 3:5 I Co. 1:26f Eph. 1:5
 - 6. You chose God because He first chose you. I Jo. 4:19
- C. God predestined you, whom He foreknew, to fulfill His glorious purpose. v. 29b
 - 1. What is the difference between predestination and foreknowledge? I Co. 2:7
 - 2. To predestine means to determine or ordain beforehand. Eph. 1:5,11 Acts 4:28
 - 3. God's immediate purpose is that you be conformed to Christ. Eph. 1:4 I Jo. 3:2 Phil. 3:21 I Co. 15:49
 - 4. God's ultimate purpose is that Christ be glorified through those He has saved.
 - a. Christ is the pre-eminent one in the family of God, the heir of all things. Col. 1:15,18 Heb. 1:6 12:23 Rev. 1:5 Ex. 4:22
 - b. God has determined that Christ would share His glory and His privilege with a multitude of brothers (and sisters). Heb. 2:9-12
 - c. God gave the particular people He chose to the Son. Jo. 6:37,39 10:14
 - d. The elect will not be a chosen few, but a great multitude! Gen. 12:3 Isa. 53:11 Rev. 7:9

III. God works out His eternal purpose by calling, justifying, and glorifying you. v. 30

A. God called you. v. 30a

1. Paul is not speaking of the general, outward call given to all people, some of whom believe. 10:14 Mt. 22:14 11:28 Acts 17:30 Isa. 45:22 John 7:37 Lu. 14:15-24 Pr. 8:4
2. Paul refers to the effectual inward call, given to some (the elect), all of whom believe. 1:6-7 8:28 9:7,11,24,25,26 11:29 II Ti. 1:9 Jo. 6:37,44 10:26-33 Acts 2:39 13:48 16:14 I Th. 1:4f II Th. 2:13-14 I Co. 1:9,24 7:15,18 II Pe. 1:10 Isa. 55:10-11
 - a. God gives life (new birth) to those who were dead in sin. Eph. 2:4f Jo. 3:3,8 1:12-13 Titus 3:5 I Th. 1:4-5 Ezek. 36:26-27 I Pe. 1:3
 - b. This call comes only to those who have been foreknown and predestined.
 - c. All who receive *this* call are justified and glorified.

B. God justified you. v. 30b 3:20,24-26,28,30 4:5 5:1,9 8:33 Gal. 2:17

1. Justification is God's gracious work of declaring sinners righteous based upon the work of Jesus Christ. 3:25-26 5:1
2. Why doesn't Paul mention faith with justification?
3. Must the elect believe in order to be saved? Jo. 1:12-13 6:37 Eph. 2:8-9 Phil. 1:29
4. Why doesn't Paul include sanctification in the golden chain?
 - a. God's call results in faith and sanctification.
 - b. Sanctification may be implied in that God is presently working out His purpose to conform us to Christ. v. 28b Col. 3:10 II Co. 3:18 Phil. 1:6 3:10

C. God glorified you. v. 30c Co. 1:27 3:4 IICo. 4:17 IITh. 2:14 IITi. 2:10 Re. 21:27 22:3-4

1. This has been a major theme in this section of Romans and is God's purpose in choosing and saving you. 8:17,18,21,28b
2. Why does Paul speak of a future event in the past (aorist) tense?
Because God has foreordained your glorification - it is certain. Phil. 1:6

IV. Questions.

A. Is God unfair?

1. Those who remain lost receive what their sins deserve. 6:23 3:23 Mt. 20:1f Jo. 3:18
2. God doesn't treat everyone equally (Israel, manifestation of providence, opportunity to hear). 11:2f 10:13-14 9:13-23 Dt. 7:6-8 Am. 3:2 Gen. 12:1f Jo. 5:1-9

B. Why evangelize if God has already determined who would be saved?

1. We are not doing in evangelism anything which God *could not* do without us.
2. Yet God uses means in saving His elect. 10:13-15 Js. 1:18 I Pe. 1:23 Isa. 55:11
3. God invites all people to Christ through us: the general call. 10:13 Acts 17:30
4. God has a people waiting to hear and believe. Act 18:9-10 Isa. 55:11 Acts 13:47-48
5. We are called to be faithful. The results are up to God. II Co. 2:15-16
6. The greatest evangelists and missionaries in the history of the church have believed in God's sovereign election.

C. How can this be reconciled with the responsibility of man? 11:33-36 Deut. 29:29

V. Concluding Applications: Salvation is of the Lord! Jonah 2:9

A. Your salvation is secure because it is God's work from start to finish. Phil. 1:6
Je. 31:3 Jo. 6:37 10:27-29 Rev. 13:8 I Pe. 1:3-5

B. God alone receives all the glory in salvation. I Co. 1:30-31 Eph. 1:6,12,14 2:9

C. Today, you can solve the question whether you are elect. Acts 16:30-31 Rom. 10:13
John 1:12-13

Discussion questions for family worship

1. Should the subject of predestination be avoided because it is so difficult and divisive?
Why or why not?
2. What is the meaning of foreknowledge in Romans 8:29?
Why can't Paul be speaking of our foreseen faith?
3. When did God choose His people?
4. Why did God choose those whom He chose?
5. What was God's purpose in choosing us? v. 29b
6. In what senses does God "call" those He foreknew and predestined? v. 30a
7. Must the elect believe in order to be justified?
8. Why does Paul speak of our glorification in the past tense? v. 30c
9. Is the biblical doctrine of predestination unfair? Why or why not?
10. How does the biblical doctrine of predestination encourage evangelism?
11. How can you know if you are elect?

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