

## Romans 8:28-31

**8:28 And we know that all things work together for good to them that love God, to them who are the called according to his purpose.**

What a passage of scripture we have here. Paul says there is something that we can know for sure, something we can be assured of. What's that? ALL things work TOGETHER for good, TO WHO? Those that 1) love God, 2) who are THE CALLED.

First of all this passage does not say, all that happens to you will be good. In fact the Bible is clear that we will receive evil as well with the good in this life (Job 2:6-10). As a Christian you might have to endure some evil for Christ's sake. This is normal for every child of God. We've seen in previous studies that we are called to suffer for Christ and that we are appointed unto afflictions.

Look at Joseph, the evil that his brothers did unto him, God used it for good (Genesis 50:15-20).

The false belief that if you are right with God, things will go good for you, or you'll be blessed with x, y, and z, makes the Apostles not right with God. And what about Jesus? Look at the evil he had to endure.

There may be things that you'll have to endure in life that are flat out evil and not of God. But God will use that and the other experiences you have in life and cause it to work together for good if you love God and are a Christian.

And this verse does not necessarily mean you'll see the good that came from all of your experiences at the end of your earthly life. In fact, it is most likely referring to you life in a heavenly body. In light of what our future holds, whatever happens now, whatever suffering, whatever evil we experience and heartache we go through, is not worthy to be compared with our glorious future (2 Corinthians 4:17). So even if you live a hard life down here, if you are saved, in comparison with life in eternity, it will seem as nothing. Thank God for that!

The Bible says our life is like a vapor (James 4:14), its here for a little while and then its gone. Let's give this vapor we have to Jesus.

Now notice, this promise does not apply to all, it only applies to those that are saved and love God.

The verse says, WHO ARE THE CALLED according to his purpose. It doesn't say called, but THE CALLED. That is a specific group of people.

Look at Romans 1:1-7, 1 Corinthians 1:2, 1 Corinthians 1:23-24, Ephesians 4:4, 2 Thessalonians 2:14, 1 Timothy 6:12, 1 Peter 5:10, Revelation 17:14

Called According to His Purpose: This is defined in the next verse. What's God's purpose?  
To conform us to the image of his Son.

**8:28 For whom he did foreknow, he also did predestinate to be conformed to the image of his Son, that he might be the firstborn among many brethren.**

## **Predestination**

Nowhere in the Bible does it say God has predestined anybody to salvation or damnation. Predestination is found only 4 times in the Bible.

Romans 8:29, Romans 8:30, Ephesians 1:5, Ephesians 1:11

Romans 8:29 – Predestined to be conformed to the image of his Son

Romans 8:30 – Predestined to be conformed to Christ's image

Ephesians 1:5 – Predestined unto the adoption of children by Jesus Christ (Romans 8:23)

Ephesians 1:11 – Predestined to the redemption of the purchased possession

Every time we read about predestination in the Bible, it is always applying to someone who is already saved and been born again, that has already trusted Christ.

God has predetermined for all Christians that they will be just like Jesus Christ one day: that is God's purpose.

*For who he did foreknow, he ALSO did predestinate*

Notice God, predestinated Christians according to foreknowledge.

***Foreknowledge - awareness of something before it happens or exists.***

God knows everything (Psalm 147:5) and based upon his ability to foresee all things, he predestinates those that would trust Christ one day that they would be conformed to Christ's image.

The scripture says saved people are ELECT ACCORDING TO FOREKNOWLEDGE, not predestination (1 Peter 1:2).

Foreknowledge is completely different from predestination. With predestination you determine something ahead of time and you affect the thing. With foreknowledge you know of something ahead of time, but you do not necessarily act upon that knowledge.

Foreknowledge appears only 2 times in the Bible (1 Peter 1:2, Acts 2:23). In Acts 2:23, Jesus was delivered by the determinate counsel and foreknowledge of God. In other words, God knew about this ahead of time. Now how can God hold these men that killed Christ accountable if they had no choice in the matter? Answer he couldn't. But they did have a choice in the matter, like all men have the choice to believe on Christ or not. God didn't

make people do what they did to Christ, he just foresaw what they would do to him. Jesus said offences must come, but woe to that man through whom they come (Matthew 18:7).

God wants all to be saved (1 Timothy 2:3-4); he's not willing that any should perish (2 Peter 3:9).

None can come to Christ lest the Father draw him (John 6:44) and he says whosoever cometh to me I will in NO WISE CAST OUT (John 6:37); Whosoever believes in him receive eternal life (John 3:16).

### ***Election – chosen, selected***

Jesus Christ is God's elect (Isaiah 42:1, Titus 1:1, 1 Peter 2:6)

Israel as a nation is elect (Isaiah 45:4)

Tribulation Jews (Matthew 24:22, 24:31)

Christians (Romans 8:33, Colossians 3:12)

Peter's advice to those that doubt their salvation (2 Peter 1:4-11)

Notice Peter says God has given saved people all they need to live a godly life (1:3) and that they have escaped the corrupting that is in the world through lust (1:4). Then in 1:5-1:7, he tells the elect child of God what to add to his faith. Then he says in 1:8, if these things abound in you, ye shall not be barren or unfruitful in Christ.

Then in 1:9 he says, someone that is unfruitful and is not manifesting the fruits of the Spirit, that still is in bondage to his own lusts, IS BLIND, and cannot see afar off, and has forgotten he was purged from his sins.

Then he says something interesting in 1:10, he says brethren give diligence TO MAKE YOUR CALLING AND ELECTION SURE. Let's stop right there. If you had no choice in the matter, why would Peter say something like this? He says make your calling and your election sure. That must mean, you determine whether or not you are called or you are elect.

### **Chosen**

The Bible talks about God's chosen (Mark 13:20, 2 Thessalonians 2:13).

We are chosen of God if we are in Christ (Ephesians 1:4)

### ***Ordain – order by virtue of superior authority, decree; to appoint to something***

Acts 13:44-48 – As many as were ordained to eternal life believed

**8:30 Moreover whom he did predestinate, them he also called: and whom he called, them he also justified: and whom he justified, them he also glorified.**

Who are the ones that God did predestinate? Those that believe on Christ, that have been born again. What also happens to these people.

- 1) God calls them
  - a. To be saints (Romans 1:1)
  - b. Fellowship with Christ (1 Corinthians 1:9)
  - c. To peace (1 Corinthians 7:15)
  - d. To what God says wherever you are at (1 Corinthians 7:18-24)
  - e. To grace (Galatians 1:6)
  - f. To liberty (Galatians 5:13)
  - g. One hope (new body, conformed to Christ's image, Ephesians 4:4)
  - h. Part of the body of Christ (Colossians 3:15)
  - i. To his kingdom and glory (1 Thessalonians 2:12)
  - j. To holiness (1 Thessalonians 4:7)
  - k. Obtain Christ's glory (2 Thessalonians 2:14)
  - l. Eternal life (1 Timothy 6:12)
  - m. Out of darkness into light (1 Peter 2:9)
  - n. To suffer (1 Peter 2:21)
  - o. Inherit a blessing (1 Peter 3:9)
  - p. To glory and virtue (2 Peter 1:3)
  - q. Son-ship (1 John 3:1)
- 2) God justifies them
  - a. Who does God justify? Those that put their faith in Christ (3:21-26, 30)
- 3) God glorifies them
  - a. This is referring to our glorified bodies just like Christ's (Mark 9:1-3, 2 Peter 1:16-18, Romans 8:18, Colossians 3:4, 2 Corinthians 3:18)
  - b. It also refers to our glorious future with Christ in a world without death, sorrow, crying and pain. John 17:22

**8:31 What shall we then say to these things? If God be for us, who can be against us?**