

Fri 1 July. Romans 8 verses 28-30. Called according to his purpose

Even despite our trials, our weakness and our sins, “we know that in all things God works for the good of those who love him, who have been called according to his purpose” (verse 28). God does not cause all things, but he allows them, and works with them for his purpose. He has a plan for us, and we can be confident that he will complete his work in us (Philippians 1:6).

God planned in advance that we should become like his Son, Jesus Christ. So he called us through the gospel, justified us through his Son, and united us with him in his glory: “For those God foreknew he also predestined to be conformed to the likeness of his Son, that he might be the firstborn among many brothers and sisters. And those he predestined, he also called; those he called, he also justified; those he justified, he also glorified” (Romans 8:29-30).

The meaning of *foreknowledge* and *predestination* is vigorously debated, and this verse does not resolve the debate, for Paul is not focusing on these words here (nor does he elsewhere). Paul is not commenting, for example, on whether God allows people to refuse the glory he has planned for them. Paul’s purpose here, as he nears the climax of his presentation of the gospel, is to assure readers that they do not need to worry about their salvation. If they want it, they’ll get it. And for rhetorical effect, Paul speaks even of being *glorified* in the past tense. It is as good as done. Even though we have struggles in this life, we can count on glory in the next life.

Things to think about

- Would Paul agree that God works for the good even in cases of child sex abuse, terrorism and genocide? (verse 28).

Song: Praise to the Lord

By Joachim Neander(1680) trans. Catherine Winkworth (1863)

Praise to the Lord, the Almighty, the King of creation!
O my soul, praise him, for he is your health and salvation!
Come, all who hear; now to his temple draw near,
join me in glad adoration.

Praise to the Lord, above all things so wondrously reigning;
sheltering you under his wings, and so gently sustaining!
Have you not seen all that is needful has been
sent by his gracious ordaining?

Praise to the Lord, who will prosper your work and defend you;
surely his goodness and mercy shall daily attend you.
Ponder anew what the Almighty can do,
if with his love he befriends you.

Excerpt taken from: (The Certainty of God’s Love: A Study of Romans 8:18-39)

by Michael Morrison, (<https://www.gci.org/bible/rom8b>)

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Praise to the Lord! O let all that is in me adore him!
All that has life and breath, come now with praises before him.
Let the Amen sound from his people again;
gladly forever adore him.

Remember a promise

- All things work together for the good of _(your name)_ who loves God and is called according to his purpose (v. 28)
- God takes initiative to know, guide, call, justify, and glorify _(your name)_, helping _(your name)_ to become more and more like Jesus (v. 29-30)

Prayer

Thank you, Lord, that having begun a good work in me, You will bring it to completion at the day of Jesus Christ

(Philippians 1:6)