

Transformed, Part 14 Romans 8:29-30 “Predestined To Glory”

Romans chapter 8 has been called the Mt. Everest of Scripture because as you read through it – each truth is like another MT peak.

A) Leading to this glorious view of the Christian life in all of its fullness.

A) This is our 15th study in this in-depth series in Romans 6-8 called Transformed.

1) Today is our 8th study in Romans ch.8 in the series

B) This is what we have learned thus far in Ch.8 - As Believers in Christ / **we have been placed in Him** / Justified = NO CONDEMNATION / & He is in us - through His Spirit

C) Now **we are those** who are seeking to walk in the power & the direction of the spirit - knowing we've been set free from the Law - free from power of sin

1) Which means that we have a freedom not to indulge in carnality but to give ourselves whole heartedly to the Lord - His leading

We have been adopted into the family of God as adult Sons & by walking in the Spirit we can - enjoy the blessings of our inheritance & position Now

A) And in the midst of our trials & sufferings we can live w/ great confidence knowing that God is working - God is preparing us for eternity

B) God is working all things together for good - His good - which results in our good -

C) All things are working together - to fulfill God's purpose in our lives- which Paul states very clearly in v.29 - **conform us into the image of His Son**

The verses we are looking at today give us some good insight into **the Doctrine of Election**. Romans 8:29-30
29 For whom He foreknew, He also predestined to be conformed to the image of His Son, that He might be the firstborn among many brethren. 30 Moreover whom He predestined, these He also called; whom He called, these He also justified; and whom He justified, these He also glorified.

Someone said to me recently that sometimes my Sunday morning sermons have the feel of a college classroom.

A) I am not sure if they meant it as a compliment – but I took it that way because – that is what people used to say about Pastor Brian's teaching.

B) Today might feel that way a little bit as we unpack the **Doctrine of election**.

1) So the first part of my message today is going to deal with Theology - Very theological.

C) Hopefully God will enable me by His grace to take something that can be a bit complicated and bring some understanding to it.

D) I am going to try and do that in about 20min.

E) Then the message is going to get extremely practical as we consider how to apply this wonderful information.

The Doctrine of Election:

“Whom He foreknew, He also predestined.”

In order to understand the doctrine of Election and the part that God’s foreknowledge plays in it – we must start with the nature of God.

1. God is Omniscient - Omni = All / scient = science or knowledge

A) God knows all things – Acts 15:18 **“Known to God from eternity are all His works.”**

B) There is nothing that God does not know – there is nothing that has ever happened in the history of the world that has caught Him by surprise.

C) God is all knowing – therefore- God cannot learn anything new!

Now that is hard for us to relate to because we are constantly thinking – and learning and discovering.

A) But not God – God knows all things **before** they happen, **when** they will happen, and **why** they will happen.

#1 God is Omniscient – All Knowing

2. God is Eternal.

A) God has always been, He will always be!

B) He is called the **Alpha and the Omega** – the beginning and the end.

C) God has always been – He has no beginning and He will have no ending.

1) He doesn’t grow older – he doesn’t grow wiser.

3. God does not change. He is Immutable.

A) Which is a good thing for us/ What if God changed?

B) **I forgive you today – but tomorrow I might change my mind!**

1) We would always be living on **pins and needles**

C) But since God does not change – what we learn about God today will be true of God tomorrow.

So when the Bible tells us in 1 John that God is love – we know that God has always been loving and will always be loving.

A) The very nature of God is Love.

B) **God is Holy!** – He loves righteousness & hates sin.

C) **God is compassionate** – He is full of compassion

1) He is merciful – Full of mercy and grace.

D) **It is at the cross of Christ** – that we see the perfect blending of His love, compassion, mercy – blending with His holiness

1) In His love He sent Christ – to satisfy the Justice of a Holy God by dying for the sins of the world.

4. God is Omnipotent: All powerful or Sovereign

A) He does what He wants, when He wants and How He wants.

5. God is Omni-present: Always present.

A) I like that – some have the idea that when we come to church we are visiting God.

B) This is special – Jesus said that when two or more are gathered together in My name. I am there in the midst.

C) But this is not God's house - the Church is not at 885 E. Vista way – You & I are the church.

1) **The body of Christ** – You are the temple of the Holy spirit.

D) God is always present – With us everywhere.
Psalm 139

7 Where can I go from Your Spirit?
Or where can I flee from Your presence?

8 If I ascend into heaven, You are there;
If I make my bed in hell, behold, You are there.

9 If I take the wings of the morning,
And dwell in the uttermost parts of the sea,
10 Even there Your hand shall lead me,
And Your right hand shall hold me.

E) There is no place where God is not!

Now Because God is Omniscient and Eternal and Omni-present – It means that He dwells in the realm of timelessness.

A) God sees all things in the now – He sees the whole story at one time.

B) Goodyear Blimp and the Rose Parade – UCLA – USC –

C) That reality gives us incredible understanding to certain Scriptures that talk about God's foreknowledge and Predestination.

Revelation 13:8

Jesus is “the Lamb slain from the foundation of the world.”

Acts 2:22-23

Jesus of Nazareth, a Man attested by God to you by miracles, wonders, and signs which God did through Him in your midst, as you yourselves also know — 23 Him, being delivered by the determined purpose and foreknowledge of God, you have taken by lawless hands, have crucified, and put to death

Now here is what these two verses reveal to us – Before God made the world and man in the world. He foreknew{knew in advance} man would rebel.

A)He foreknew that man’s rebellion would separate man from God.

B)God foreknew that He would have His beloved Son – become a man and come to earth – the pay the price for Man’s sin!

1)Perfect blending of love and holiness or Grace and Justice.

C)God’s holiness demands that sin cannot be ignored – When the law is broken, Justice must be served.

1)God’s love is clearly seen in the fact that Jesus paid the price.

D)That whosoever would believe in Jesus – His finished work, could be saved from sin / forgiven/ made right with God . relationship with Him.

D)All of this was seen by God before it came into being – because He is eternal – Sees all of history in the now.

Which is why Peter refers 1 Peter 1:2 to believers in his epistle as “the elect according to the foreknowledge of God the Father.”

And here in Romans v.29-30 “For whom He foreknew, He also predestined to be conformed to the image of His Son.....30 Moreover whom He predestined, these He also called; whom He called, these He also justified; and whom He justified, these He also glorified.”

We were chosen by God – predestined or predetermined by God to be in His family – to be saved, according to the foreknowledge of God.

A) The word predestined only appears 4 times in the entire Bible – twice here in Romans 8 and twice in Ephesians 1

B) It is important to note that whenever the Bible uses the term predestined or election it is always in relationship to salvation.

C)It is always used in relation to believers and never in relation to unbelievers

1)In other words those two terms are never used to describe someone who is going to hell or who has been predestined to Damnation or Judgment

D)I point that out because there are those who are what we would refer to as hard core Calvinists who –

say – that God predestines some to Salvation and some to Damnation

E)But the Bible never says that.

Election is a great Doctrine, it should bless us to know that before time –God planned in advance for us to be saved.

A)He planned in advance for us to come to Christ and ultimately be glorified together with Christ.

B)Does that mean that God chose you because – He knew you would believe in Jesus?- Not exactly
Because = condition

B)It means that He chose you – **KNOWING** – you would believe in Jesus.

1)That simply magnifies the nature of God

C)This is the idea that drives hard core Calvinist Crazy – **The Calvinist rightly want to put the emphasis for Salvation all on God.**

1)God is the author of salvation – did the work of salvation –provided the way to salvation – Salvation is all of God.

D)They assert that if we say God is saving based upon the foreknowledge of who is going to believe, then people are getting saved, because of something in them rather than in God.

They assert if you hold that position you are making faith a work!

A) But to me it seems that the problem here is a failure to distinguish between salvation, in a general sense, and the means of obtaining salvation.

B)We who are non-Calvinists, we don't believe that we save ourselves. Biblicist {no preconceived bent

C)We believe that salvation, the offer of salvation, is entirely of God.

We don't believe that God offers salvation because He saw that some people would believe, and then decided –

A)Okay, people would believe, and then I guess I have to save them.

B)God didn't have to save anybody. It didn't matter if the whole world would have believed.

1)God is under no obligation to save sinners. So the choice to save is completely in God.

C)There was nothing in man that motivated God to save us, nothing.

1)God didn't look at us, and see a spark of God.

2) He didn't look at us, and see some potential hidden there under the surface.

D)No, the Bible is clear that salvation is the gift of God. It originates with God. It has nothing to do with man

There is not anything in man that has brought about the possibility of salvation.

A)But the Bible is also crystal clear that this salvation that God originated and offers to us is not going to be ours apart from faith.

B)We have to believe- Those who believe are given eternal life.

C)Faith is not a work by which we earn our salvation Faith is merely a response to God's call of salvation.

1)God calls & man needs to respond.

D))To say that doesn't lessen God's sovereignty in any way – **it only magnifies it.**

1)God has sovereignly ordained that salvation is a work of God – that man enjoys by faith.

E)Because **God is eternal in Nature** – Omniscient in nature – He knows those who will respond

1)Saw them in Christ – before the world was ever Created.

Ephesians 1:4 **“Chose us in Christ, before the foundation of the world.”**

The whole thing merely magnifies how awesome the nature of God is and how wonderful is His plan of Salvation.

A)How do I know if I am chosen? Believe in Jesus

B)Put your faith today in Christ – Saved

1)Forgiven – Chosen by God.

C)The thing that Paul is pointing to here is the fact that God – sees the completed Process

29 For whom He foreknew, He also predestined to be conformed to the image of His Son, that He might be the firstborn among many brethren. 30 Moreover whom He predestined, these He also called; {insinuates a response when we responded }whom He called, these He also justified;

Justified means – He declares us to be righteous

A)Just as if you never sinned – if you are a believer in Jesus Christ today that is how God sees you.

B)In Christ – covered in the righteousness of Christ
1)He took on Himself all our sin – transferred to us His righteousness

and whom He justified, these He also glorified.

C)This is awesome – notice – He doesn't say He will glorify – someday .

1)Called – Justified and glorified are all in the past tense – meaning – **Done deal**

This is an amazing Paradox – We are presently being conformed into the image of Christ.

A)But God who is eternal in nature- already sees the finished product.

B)He sees us in eternity, He sees us in Heaven –
Ephesians 2 **seated** {past tense} **in the heavenly places**

C)God can speak in the past tense – because He is so confident that the work – He began in you is going to be completed.

1)He sees it as a Done deal.

From our perspective we are a work in Progress

A)Salvation army – couple saved but illiterate

B)Everyone has these red sweatshirts – white writing

1)UNDER CONSTRUCTION.

C)That is our perspective – But God sees the finished Product. – Glorious

That is how efficacious the blood of Jesus is!

A)Jesus on the Cross – Yelled out it is finished
DONE

B)God sees the finished Product – God sees you glorified right now. Sees you in Christ.

C)Exhortation: Be who you are in Jesus – instead of who you once were in Adam.

I believe that there is a real practical way that you and I can help each other be who we are in Christ.

A)What if we started seeing each other the way that God sees us now? Finished product.

B)But we are not, Pastor Rob – Sinners/ selfish and we are flawed – TRUE TRUE TRUE

C)But what would happen if we started to choose to focus on in each other – the things that remind us of Jesus.

D)Paul seemed to adopt that mentality –

2 Corinthians 5:16 – **Know no man after the flesh.**

1)New creations in Christ – See you that way.

Now I am not suggesting that we ignore sin and rebellion in each other.

A)Rebellion needs to be lovingly confronted{ another study for another time.}

B)But what I am talking about is making a choice to not focus on the flaws and short comings that we see in each other.

1)Choosing to not magnify the idiosyncrasies

C)That is what the word glorify actually means – to magnify -

That is what God does: He Magnifies – Somehow some way – in eternity – He will shed that part of us that is not like Christ.

A)He magnifies the part of us that is like Jesus.

B)What if we started doing that right now in our relationships with each other.

1)Magnify what you see in others that reminds you of Jesus.

C)That is so hard to do right? It really shouldn't be – you see, we magnify what is bad in others all the time

1)We take the magnifying glass out and focus on it.

D)Listen – what we focus on, we will magnify!

1)It is a matter of choice. – What are you going to focus on in your spouse, your kids, your friends

Philippians 4:8-9

“Finally, brethren, whatever things are true, whatever things are noble, whatever things are just, whatever things are pure, whatever things are lovely, whatever things are of good report, if there is any virtue and if there is anything praiseworthy — meditate on these things.”

E)What would change if you decided to meditate on and magnify – the things true, noble, just, pure, praiseworthy about your spouse

Pastor Rob, that might take me some time to really think about those things – you don't know who I live with.

A)Great – take all the time you need – the Bible says that those who wait on the Lord..... strength!

B)30 day challenge – Your marriage – with your kids or someone in the Church – irritates you.

C)For 30 days thank God for the good qualities you see in your spouse, kids, that person that irritates... I dare you for the next 30 days you thank God each day for the good qualities.

A)Listen, they may not change in those thirty days, but you will.

B)Your heart and perspective will change immensely as you MAGNIFY – what you see of Jesus in them.

C)End of that 30 days – write them a note – telling them how blessed you are by them.

D)30 days – I dare you – You will see a change for sure in you. Maybe in them

1)Chose to see them like God sees them

"God can change my heart, but He will not change my mind. (He is not going to violate my will or force me to do anything.) I can't change my heart, but I can change my mind. When I change my mind, (about a person, a sin, a situation,) God can and will change my heart."

What if you knew the person billionaire Philanthropist – half a peace sign