

McCoy Memorial Baptist Church

DATE: March 17, 2021

Wednesday Class: "Romans: God's **Good News** for the World"

## THE \_\_\_\_\_ OF SANCTIFICATION (8:18-27 ... this passage comes out of vs. 17)

### 1. The Groaning \_\_\_\_\_ (vss. 19-22)

"The creation waits in eager expectation for the sons of God to be revealed" (vs. 19)

### 2. The Groaning \_\_\_\_\_ (vss. 18, 23-25)

"I consider that our present sufferings are not worth comparing with the glory that will be revealed **in (to)** us" (8:18). "We ourselves . . . wait eagerly for our adoption as sons, the redemption of our bodies. For in this hope we were saved" (8:23, 24).

What help do Christians have? What sustains us?

(1) We have the hope of future glory (18, 23-25)

(2) We have the help of the Holy Spirit (26-27)

(3) We have the knowledge of God's plan (28-30), and . . .

(4) We have the security of God's faithfulness and love (31-39)

## THE \_\_\_\_\_ OF SANCTIFICATION (8:28-39)

This section (vss. 28-39) logically follows the discussion of **the GOAL of sanctification** (vss. 18-27). To discuss the goal of sanctification — the believer's hope, which he awaits eagerly and steadfastly — is pointless unless that goal is **certain**. God here in verses 28-39 provides that certainty and confirms the believer's hope. Sanctification, from its beginning in eternity past ("those whom God foreknew He predestined") to its completion in glorification ("those whom He justified He glorified"), is ultimately God's work, which believers appropriate by faith; but even "faith" is a gift from God; see Eph. 2:8-9.

### 1. The \_\_\_\_\_ of God's \_\_\_\_\_ (vss. 28-30)

A. Five Unshakable Convictions (vs. 28). Convictions about God which "we know":

1) \_\_\_\_\_, or is at work, in our lives. See Prov. 3:5, 6.

2) God is at work \_\_\_\_\_ of His people.

3) God works for our good in \_\_\_\_\_.

4) God works in all things for the good of those who \_\_\_\_\_ Him.

5) Those who love God are described as "those who have been called according to His purpose." Our love for God is a sign and token of His prior love for us (1 John 4:19).

B. Five Undeniable Affirmations (vss. 29-30)

In vss. 29-30, Paul elaborates what he meant by God's "purpose". He traces God's "purpose" thru five stages; from its beginning in His mind; to its consummation in the coming glory. Note:

(1) the subject of each verb: **God**; and (2) the tense of each verb: **aorist** tense = past tense.

1) \_\_\_\_\_ = *proginosko* ... "to know before"

God pre-thought and pre-determined each Christian's salvation.

- 2) \_\_\_\_\_ = *proorizo* ... “to determine or decree beforehand”  
 God determined the destiny of the elect before creation: namely, Christlikeness (Eph. 1:3-4).
- 3) \_\_\_\_\_  
 The historical application of His eternal election and predestination. God’s call is effectual (it’s a conversion producing call). All people are called (the general call of God), but only a few respond—that’s the effectual (conversion—producing) call of God. It is irresistible.
- 4) \_\_\_\_\_  
 God’s effective call enables those who hear it to believe, & those who believe are justified.
- 5) \_\_\_\_\_  
 A recurring theme in Romans (5:2; 8:18). To the Thessalonians Paul wrote that our glorification is the very purpose for which we are redeemed (2 Thess. 2:13-14). Our destiny is to be given new bodies on a new earth, both of which will be transfigured with the glory of God.

Implications of God’s eternal “purpose” spelled out in vss. 29-30.

- God’s sovereignty in \_\_\_\_\_.  
 “All Christian people believe in God’s sovereignty in salvation, even if they deny it” (J. I. Packer).
  - You give God \_\_\_\_\_ for your conversion!
  - You \_\_\_\_\_ for the conversion of others!
 “So our thanksgivings and our intercessions prove that we believe in divine sovereignty. On our feet we may have arguments about it, but on our knees we are all agreed” (J. I. Packer).
- \_\_\_\_\_ of believers.  
 For every million people who are foreknown and predestined by God, every one of that million will be called, justified and glorified. Not one will be missing! See “all” in John 6:37.

Why do we have trouble with the truth of God’s sovereignty?

- In the flesh, we are \_\_\_\_\_ (see Rom. 8:7)
- In the flesh, we are \_\_\_\_\_
- Our focus is on the \_\_\_\_\_; God’s is on the \_\_\_\_\_.
- Our knowledge is \_\_\_\_\_; God’s is \_\_\_\_\_.

What to remember:

- The \_\_\_\_\_ (vss. 28-30) is to be claimed, not ignored: “we know”!
- The \_\_\_\_\_ is God’s, not ours.
- The \_\_\_\_\_ is total, not partial. It involves “all things”!
- The \_\_\_\_\_ is good, not evil. Our Lord is “for us”, not against us!

2. The \_\_\_\_\_ of God’s \_\_\_\_\_ (vss. 31-39)  
 Paul presented 5 arguments to prove that there can be no separation between the believer & Lord.

A. Argument #1: God is \_\_\_\_\_ us! (vs. 31)

“If God is for us”—this is not a statement of possibility, but one of certainty—“then no one can be successful against us.” The apostle does not mean that the Christian has no opponents. If omnipotence is working on our behalf, it makes not the slightest particle of difference who is against us (no lesser power can defeat God’s purpose; His plan).

B. Argument #2: Christ \_\_\_\_\_ for us! (vs. 32)

The argument here is fr. the greater to the lesser. Since God has already given us the supreme and costliest gift of His own Son (He didn’t spare or withhold Him) “how will He not also, . . . graciously give us all things?” In giving His Son He gave everything. The cross is the ultimate guarantee of the continuing, unfailing generosity of God.

C. Argument #3: God has \_\_\_\_\_ us! (vs. 33)

God has declared us righteous in Christ. So, who will accuse us? If this question stood on its own, many voices would be raised in accusation.

1) Sometimes our own \_\_\_\_\_ accuse us (see 1 Jn. 3:19-20)

2) The \_\_\_\_\_ never ceases to press charges against us (Rev. 12:10; Job; Zech. 3:1ff.)

3) We have \_\_\_\_\_ enemies who delight to point an accusing finger at us.

D. Argument #4: Christ \_\_\_\_\_ for us! (vs. 34)

“Who is he that condemns?” Remember, “There is now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus” (8:1). Jesus Christ is God’s appointed judge who will condemn the unrighteous, but He will not condemn the elect. Christ has rescued us and continues to rescue us from condemnation! (see Acts 17:31).

E. Argument #5: Christ \_\_\_\_\_ us! (vss. 35-39)

Paul asks the question: “Who shall separate us from the love of Christ?” [Christ’s love for us]. He mentions 7 possibilities (trouble, hardship, persecution, famine, nakedness, danger, or sword). These 7 are related to the world’s opposition; suffering unique to Christians. Shall any of these hardships succeed in separating us from the love of Christ? Paul’s answer in verse 37: “No!” “In all these things” (takes us back to vs. 28) we are “more than conquerors”.

Paul concludes with a list of **ten items** than can never separate us “from the love of God that is in Christ Jesus our Lord.” He seems to arrange them in four pairs, along with two single items:

**Death . . . life** = the crisis of death and the calamities of life.

**Angels . . . demons** = all cosmic, superhuman agencies whether good or bad.

**Nor any powers** (see above)

**Present . . . future** = time

**Height . . . depth** = space (cp. Psalm 139)

**Nor anything else in all creation**

Our confidence is not in our love for Him, which is frail, fickle, and faltering; but in His love for us, which is steadfast, faithful, and persevering.