

Series: Romans VIII: Trusting God's Sovereignty

Message: All Things: Part Seven

Scripture: Romans 8:28-30 (NASB)

Teacher: Randy Pope

Dates: August 10/11, 2019

Romans 8:28

²⁸ And we know that God causes all things to work together for good to those who love God, to those who are called according to His purpose.

Romans 8:29-30

²⁹ For those whom He foreknew, He also predestined to become conformed to the image of His Son, so that He would be the firstborn among many brethren;

³⁰ and these whom He predestined, He also called; and these whom He called, He also justified; and these whom He justified, He also glorified.

1. God has a perfect plan for His people which includes “working all things together for good” in their lives. (vs 28)
 2. Fully embracing the belief that “all things work together for good” presupposes an acceptance of the infallible process described in verses 29-30. (vs 29-30)
 3. The five links of the “Golden Chain” can be understood only in light of the biblical teaching regarding God’s sovereignty, man’s free will and man’s fall.
- ✓ 1) Foreknowledge

2) Predestination

Romans 8:29

²⁹ For those whom He foreknew, He also predestined to become conformed to the image of His Son, so that He would be the firstborn among many brethren;

John Piper

“First God chooses, that is, He unconditionally sets His favor on whom He will. THEN destines them for their glorious role in eternity.”

- (1) If God's choice is not based on His foresight of man's choice, does this mean that God destines some people to hell?

Romans 9:10-18

¹⁰ *And not only this, but there was Rebekah also, when she had conceived twins by one man, our father Isaac;*

¹¹ *for though the twins were not yet born and had not done anything good or bad, so that God's purpose according to His choice would stand, not because of works but because of Him who calls,*

¹² *it was said to her, "The older will serve the younger."*

¹³ *Just as it is written, "Jacob I loved, but Esau I hated."*

¹⁴ *What shall we say then? There is no injustice with God, is there? May it never be!*

¹⁵ *For He says to Moses, "I will have mercy on whom I have mercy, and I will have compassion on whom I have compassion."*

¹⁶ *So then it does not depend on the man who wills or the man who runs, but on God who has mercy.*

¹⁷ *For the Scripture says to Pharaoh, "For this very purpose I raised you up, to demonstrate My power in you, and that My name might be proclaimed throughout the whole earth."*

¹⁸ *So then He has mercy on whom He desires, and He hardens whom He desires.*

Romans 9:14

¹⁴ *What shall we say then? There is no injustice with God, is there? May it never be!*

Romans 9:19-24

¹⁹ *You will say to me then, "Why does He still find fault? For who resists His will?"*

²⁰ *On the contrary, who are you, O man, who answers back to God? The thing molded will not say to the molder, "Why did you make me like this," will it?*

²¹ *Or does not the potter have a right over the clay, to make from the same lump one vessel for honorable use and another for common use?*

²² *What if God, although willing to demonstrate His wrath and to make His power known, endured with much patience vessels of wrath prepared for destruction?*

²³ *And He did so to make known the riches of His glory upon vessels of mercy, which He prepared beforehand for glory,*

²⁴ *even us, whom He also called, not from among Jews only, but also from among Gentiles.*

- (2) If God's choice is not based on His foresight of man's choice, upon what is His choice based?

Ephesians 1:3-6

³ *Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places in Christ,*

⁴ *just as He chose us in Him before the foundation of the world, that we would be holy and blameless before Him. In love*

⁵ *He predestined us to adoption as sons through Jesus Christ to Himself, according to the kind intention of His will,*

⁶ *to the praise of the glory of His grace, which He freely bestowed on us in the Beloved.*

Galatians 1:15-16

¹⁵ *But when God, who had set me apart even from my mother's womb and called me through His grace, was pleased*

¹⁶ *to reveal His Son in me so that I might preach Him among the Gentiles, I did not immediately consult with flesh and blood,*

3) Calling

- (1) Who gets this call?

- (2) So what is this call?

1 Corinthians 1:23-24

²³ *but we preach Christ crucified, to Jews a stumbling block and to Gentiles foolishness,*

²⁴ *but to those who are called, both Jews and Greeks, Christ the power of God and the wisdom of God.*

1) Modern Day Popular Theology

We have the power of ultimate self-determination and are thus accountable for our choices.

2) Historical Biblical Theology

As spiritually dead people, we have no power of self-determination and because we are responsible for our spiritual death, we are, thus, responsible for our choices.

Acts 13:48

⁴⁸ *When the Gentiles heard this, they began rejoicing and glorifying the word of the Lord; and as many as had been appointed to eternal life believed.*