

— Romans 8.28-30 —

Romans Series 48

### The Personalness and Assurance of God's Salvation

Rom 8.28 And we know that all things work together for good to those who love God, to those who are the called according to His purpose. 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.

\* **God** causing all things to work together for those who love him, and God assuring salvation to fallen people in this fallen world both demand a \_\_\_\_\_ God.

\* **And** yet, Christians love and embrace the former, while often rejecting or turning a cold shoulder to the latter. Why?

\* Ironically, the true upshot of God's sovereignty in salvation as presented in the Bible is to demonstrate and prove the utter \_\_\_\_\_ of God's saving love from start to finish.

\* **How** do these verses show the typical usage of the Greek word "foreknow"?

Acts 26.5 since they [i.e., the Jewish leaders] have known about me for a long time, if they are willing to testify, that I lived as a Pharisee according to the strictest sect of our religion.

2Pet 3.17 You therefore, beloved, since you know this beforehand, beware lest you also fall from your own steadfastness, being led away with the error of the wicked

\* **How** did the Greek word get expanded to take on the much deeper meaning of the Hebrew word for "know"?

\* **How** do the following verses show the deeper meaning of the Hebrew word for "know"?

Gen 18.18 ... Abraham shall surely become a great and mighty nation, and all the nations of the earth shall be blessed in him? 19 For I have known him ..."

Jer 1.5 "Before I formed you in the womb I knew you; Before you were born I sanctified you; I ordained you a prophet to the nations."

Amos 3.2 "You only have I known of all the families of the earth; Therefore I will punish you for all your iniquities."

\* **Does** this mean that God does not love others?

Mat 5.44 But I say to you, love your enemies, bless those who curse you, do good to those who hate you ..., 45 that you may be sons of your Father in heaven; for He makes His sun rise on the evil and on the good, and sends rain on the just and on the unjust.

\* **What** is different about the special, covenant love that God shows to his people?

\* Is vs 29 talking about God looking forward into the future and seeing that certain events are going to happen—specifically that certain people are going to respond to the gospel? If not, what is it saying?

Jer 1.5 "Before I formed you in the womb I knew you ..."

Eph 1.4 ... He chose us in [Christ] before the foundation of the world, that we should be holy and without blame before Him in love

\* **When** you understand what "foreknow" means, does that make your salvation seem personal or impersonal?

\* On the other view, where God is only making salvation possible for whoever might opt in, and then looking ahead to see what's going to happen, he is not actually setting his love on anyone \_\_\_\_\_. And he's not actually accomplishing salvation for anyone \_\_\_\_\_.

\_\_\_\_\_. If that's what God is doing, then we have a real problem, for the Bible teaches us that, left to ourselves, \_\_\_\_\_ would opt in.

*Rom 1.18 For the wrath of God is revealed from heaven against all ungodliness and unrighteousness of men, who suppress the truth in unrighteousness ... 21 because, although they knew God, they did not glorify Him as God, nor were thankful, but became futile in their thoughts, and their foolish hearts were darkened.*

*John 3.19 "This is the condemnation, that light has come into the world, and men loved darkness rather than light."*

*John 3.3 "Unless one is born again, he cannot see the kingdom of God."*

\* A love from God that makes salvation possible, as wonderful as it might be, would not \_\_\_\_\_ a single soul.

\* The love of God in the Bible is the love that God sets upon individuals, knowing everything about them, and says, "You are \_\_\_\_\_, and I am \_\_\_\_\_. I am sending my \_\_\_\_\_ to get you. I am sending my \_\_\_\_\_ to awaken you. I am binding my life with yours, that your life may be bound with mine forever."

\* Christ did not come to make salvation possible for a nameless, faceless, hypothetical group of people; he came to make salvation \_\_\_\_\_ to actual people with names and faces. When Christ went to the cross, when the Father sent him there, when the Spirit sustained him so he could make it there—the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit knew your \_\_\_\_\_; they knew your \_\_\_\_\_. They knew everything about you; they knew all the problems you would have and all your sins and failures; they knew it all; and eyes-fully-open, they \_\_\_\_\_

you, they \_\_\_\_\_ you, they \_\_\_\_\_ you.

*Gal 2.20 [T]he Son of God ... loved me and gave himself for me.*

*Psalm 22.9-10: "You are He who took Me out of the womb; You made Me trust while on My mother's breasts. I was cast upon You from birth. From My mother's womb You have been My God."*

\* Vs 29-30 give us personal certainty all along the way in God's saving action. All those whom God foreknew, he \_\_\_\_\_.

*Act 2.39 For the promise is for you and your children and for all who are far off, as many as the Lord our God will call to Himself.*

*1Pet 1.3 ... God ... caused us to be born again ...*

*Eph 2.5 ... when we were dead in our transgressions, [God] made us alive together with Christ (by grace you have been saved)*

\* Every single one of those whom God foreknows and calls, he \_\_\_\_\_ (30).

\* Every single one of those whom God foreknows and calls and justifies, he \_\_\_\_\_.

*Eph 2.5-7: 5 ... [God] made us alive together with Christ ... 6 and raised us up with Him, and seated us with Him in the heavenly places ... 7 so that in the ages to come He might show the surpassing riches of His grace in kindness toward us in Christ Jesus.*

\* So we see that God's sovereignty in salvation:

1)

2)

3)