



March 23, 2014
Celebration | 8:45 am
Elevation | 10:45 am
Pastor David Mitchell

Set Free to Find God's 'Good' Romans 8:28-39

Be in position to claim God's promise of "good" Romans 8:28

"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." (v.28)

- I am in a loving personal relationship with God
- I am pursuing the purpose of God

Understand what "good" God has for us Romans 8:29-30

- **Primary good** (v.29-30)
 - Those God foreknew He predestined...
 - Those God predestined He called...
 - Those God called He justified...
 - Those God justified He glorified.
- **Secondary good**
 - Be faithful until the good comes (Ruth 1:18-22)
 - Be gracious until the good comes (Joseph in Genesis 50:16-21)
 - Be prayerful until the good comes (King Manasseh in II Chronicles 33:12-13)

Rely on the Christ's power to claim God's "good" Romans 8:31-34

"He who did not spare His own Son, but delivered Him over for us all, how will He not also with Him freely give us all things?" (v.32)

Trust in God's care because you will experience problems and pain in finding God's "good"

Romans 8:35-39

"Who will separate us from the love of Christ?" (v.37)

But in all these things we overwhelmingly conquer through Him who loved us." (v.35)

- Experiences of life (v.35)
- Powers in life (v. 38-39)

Digging Deeper

One of the challenges we face in this passage is understanding what the “good” is that God promises. Included in that “good” is the spiritual work of God to foreknow us, predestine us, call us, justify us and glorify us in Romans 8:29-30. Perhaps the most difficult idea is that God would predestine us to salvation. Because God is sovereign over us all, He does predestine our world. Read I Corinthians 2:7. What does it say about the wisdom of God to predestine us?

LifeGroup Discussion:

- Read Ephesians 1:4-6. *When did God choose us? What did He choose us to be?*
- Read how God chose others in Jeremiah 1:4-5 and Amos 3:2. *What did God choose for them?*
- Read Ephesians 1:4 again. *What did He choose us to be?*
- As in Romans 8:39, God chose us and in love predestined us to adoption.

*What results from God being the active agent in securing our salvation according to Ephesians 1:6?
How does the shaper your perspective on God’s work in your life?*

The word predestine in the Greek is “proorizo.” From pro = beforehand and horizo = to mark out beforehand, to determine for us. We get the English word horizon from this word. It is a determined plan of God to mark out our spiritual lives. Many will suggest that this is unfair because it seems to remove personal responsibility. Others will ask if God predestines people to hell. He does not. There are no scriptures that teach that God predestines anyone to hell.

- Read John 3:18 and 36. *Why will anyone be judged or stay under God’s wrath?*

Other passages on God sovereign calling and predestination:

- Read John 6:37. *Who gives us to Jesus?*
- Read John 6:44. *Who draws us to Jesus?*
- Read Acts 2:23. *Whose plan was it to crucify Jesus? Who did God still hold accountable for Jesus’ death?*

Remember the “good” God is giving to each that believe in Him. God’s “good” is that all who are called by God to salvation will also be ultimately glorified by God in heaven (Romans 8:29-30). The “good” is that God will not lose any of us along the way. The same people that are called to Jesus will be glorified by Jesus.

How does that encourage your life?

That is why Ephesians 1:6 says this sovereign call and predestined plan for our salvation brings praise and glory to God for He alone is responsible for saving us and keeping us saved until heaven. If we work to gain our salvation, then we may possibly do wrong and lose our salvation. That is contrary to biblical teaching in I Peter 1.

But the journey is not always easy. Before we are glorified in heaven we may suffer. In Romans 8:35, 38-39, *what kinds of experiences might we expect before heaven?* It is important for us to know that even in tribulation or death, God is still with us to help us “overwhelmingly conquer” those areas. Pain and suffering on the journey do not “separate us from the love of Christ.” This means no matter what, Jesus never stops loving us even though it may feel like it at times.

When have you experienced Christ’s care in those experiences of Romans 8:35, 38-39?

Remember, you will never reach a point in this life where God makes complete sense to you and you understand everything He says and does. We do need to study and seek to know His truth, but at the core, our spiritual journey of one of faith in a loving Lord that speaks truth we must accept.

Next Steps:

1. **Join the ‘Growing in Christ’ Discipleship Ministry to better understand God and His sovereign work in our salvation.** This study for new and growing Christians meets on Wednesdays at 7:00 pm in rooms S-1 and S-2. For more info, contact Ross Strachan at 714.541.1053 or visit calvarylife.org/grow
2. **Join a LifeGroup to help you when you experience life’s challenges similar to Romans 8:35, 38-39.** For more info, contact Laura Copeland at lcopeland@calvarylife.org or at 714.550.2398 to find a LifeGroup that will fit your schedule and interest. Learn more at calvarylife.org/lifegroups