

"The Doctrine of Glorification"

Romans 8:14-8:39

Part 10

Introduction: As we return to our study of Romans we are once again going to look at the Doctrine of Glorification. As we get started, I want to back up once again and remind you of the flow of Romans 8. This chapter is a detailed explanation of verse 1 where we were told "there is therefore NO CONDEMNATION to them that are in Christ Jesus". This statement is supported with the remaining part of this chapter. Paul has listed many reasons why we are free from ANY CONDEMNATION. Now the focus of this chapter is the Holy Spirit for He is referenced 19 times in this chapter. So, we see what the Spirit does for us.

1. He frees us from the law of sin and death.
2. He fulfills the Law IN us.
3. He changes us from the inside out.
4. He empowers us to have victory over the flesh.
5. He confirms our position in the family of God.
6. He guarantees our glorification.

Now this 6th point is seen in Romans 8:19-25.

Notice Romans 8:19-25

We have a hope that is sure, and that hope is that we will one day be glorified, we will one day be made known to the world, and creation will be freed from the curse. We receive glorified bodies at the rapture and our manifestation to the world will happen at the end of the Great Tribulation when we return to earth with Jesus Christ. Paul then continues with how the Spirit guarantees our glorification.

- a. He works ALL things together for our good.

Notice Romans 8:28

The word "ALL" in this verse means ALL. There is not one thing that can happen to us that is not used by God to work together for our good. This does not mean that all things are good because they are not. There are things in this life that are painful and things that are bitter. There are days that are filled with trouble. But why these things are not good

we can be assured that every situation and experience is worked together for our good. Here in this verse the church is identified in two ways.

1. **Them who love God.**
2. **Them who are the called according to His purpose.**

The Eternal Purpose of God is to have a bride for His Son and the bride is the church. Now as Paul continues, he shows us why all things work together for our good which also shows the guarantee of our glorification.

Notice Romans 8:29

The word "WHOM" refers back to those who love Him and those who are the called. Thus, the word "WHOM" refers to the church. God foreknew the church and He therefore predestinated that all who would be members by accepting Jesus Christ would be conformed into the image of His Son. Now let me give you two very important points about the word PREDESTINATION:

- a. The Bible never tells us that God predestinated any individuals to believe in Jesus Christ.
- b. The Bible never tells us that God predestinated any individuals to spend eternity in hell.

God has made salvation available to all people for Jesus Christ died for the sins of the world. It is our responsibility to reach the lost with the Gospel and it is their responsibility to believe. They can do one of two things with the Truth of the Gospel. They can respond to it by repenting and placing their faith in the finished work of Jesus Christ or they can suppress the Truth of the Gospel. Let me show you what will happen during the Tribulation under the reign of the Anti-Christ:

2 Thessalonians 2:8-12

⁸ And then shall that Wicked be revealed, whom the Lord shall consume with the spirit of his mouth, and shall destroy with the brightness of his coming:

⁹ Even him, whose coming is after the working of Satan with all power and signs and lying wonders,

¹⁰ And with all deceivableness of unrighteousness in them that perish; because they received not the love of the truth, that they might be saved.

¹¹ And for this cause God shall send them strong delusion, that they should believe a lie:

¹² That they all might be damned who believed not the truth, but had pleasure in unrighteousness.

These people will perish not because they were not predestined to be saved but because they will not receive the LOVE OF THE TRUTH. This means they will not receive the Gospel of Jesus Christ.

The point I am making is that God desires that all men would be saved and so He has not predestined some to hell and because man must make his own decision concerning Jesus Christ, God has not predestined some to be saved. Man has a free will and he must want to be saved and be freed from his sin.

Back to our verse again, God predestinated all who would come to Jesus Christ and be saved to be conformed into the image of His Son. This is why all things work together for our good. Just as we reflected the image of Adam in our unsaved condition so one day, we can be sure we will reflect perfectly the image of Jesus Christ.

1 John 3:1-2

Behold, what manner of love the Father hath bestowed upon us, that we should be called the sons of God: therefore the world knoweth us not, because it knew him not.

² *Beloved, now are we the sons of God, and it doth not yet appear what we shall be: but we know that, when he shall appear, we shall be like him; for we shall see him as he is.*

I. The Illustration of Glorification

Romans 8:28-30

Part 4

Notice Romans 2:29 again.

Jesus is the firstborn among many brethren. This means that we shall one day be like Him. The firstfruits in the Bible speak of how there is the guarantee of much more. Jesus died, was resurrected, was glorified and seated in the heavenly realm. This will one day be true of all of us who are saved. Jesus is the firstfruits of the church and we will all follow behind Him.

1 Corinthians 15:22-23

²² *For as in Adam all die, even so in Christ shall all be made alive.*

²³ But every man in his own order: Christ the firstfruits; afterward they that are Christ's at his coming.

Notice Romans 8:30

Here in this verse we find an unbreakable chain that works in the life of the believer and is held together by the mighty power of God. God has:

1. Predestinated the Church.
2. Called the Church.
3. Justified the Church.
4. Glorified the Church.

This chain applies to all of us who know Jesus Christ as our Savior. We are part of the Church which has been predestinated before the foundation of the world according to God's eternal purpose.

Ephesians 1:11

¹¹ In whom also we have obtained an inheritance, being predestinated according to the purpose of him who worketh all things after the counsel of his own will:

We are part of those who have been called into the bride/body of Jesus Christ. Now as the bride of Jesus Christ we have been justified which means to be declared righteous and in the mind of God we have already been glorified.

Now I want you to see that when you receive Jesus Christ as your Savior each of these links in the chain apply to you. As a member of the body of Jesus Christ you are secure. You are predestined to be like Jesus Christ, you are justified, and you will one day be glorified. Nothing or nobody can break this chain! God has predestined the church to be conformed into the image of His Son and this process will not be stopped.

Now there is something in this thought which I need to share with you. Let me show you another verse that will fit with this thought.

Ephesians 1:18

¹⁸ The eyes of your understanding being enlightened; that ye may know what is the hope of his calling, and what the riches of the glory of his inheritance in the saints,

When we studied this, we learned that we are God's inheritance and we are the riches of His glory. God took you and me who were cold, sinful, depraved, empty stone pots, and He has given us His Spirit and now from us comes the fruit of the Spirit. From our lives comes righteousness. Therefore, we are the riches of His glory. Now if we combine this with Romans 8:29-30 and consider how we are being conformed into the image of His Son then

we can be sure that God is going to prune and purge from our lives that which should not be there. That means life is going to be difficult at times. That means there will be loss combined with pain and suffering. This process which God is doing cannot be hindered by anything or anybody.

Philippians 1:6

⁶ Being confident of this very thing, that he which hath begun a good work in you will perform it until the day of Jesus Christ:

II. The Application of Glorification

Romans 8:31-39

Part 1

Notice Romans 8:31

There are two questions raised here:

1. What we then say to these things?

There would only be one answer that would be sufficient here, "THANK YOU LORD!"

2. If God be for us who can be against us?

There is only one answer sufficient here also, "NO ONE!"

Not one created being, that is, not one human or not one angel can do anything to keep us from reaching our glorification. Once we are saved and immediately placed into the body of Jesus Christ, we are forever secure and guaranteed of our glorification. We are kept secure by the power of God and if someone being human or angel was going to break the chain, they would need to be able to overpower God.

1 Peter 1:3-5

³ Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, which according to his abundant mercy hath begotten us again unto a lively hope by the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead,

⁴ To an inheritance incorruptible, and undefiled, and that fadeth not away, reserved in heaven for you,

⁵ Who are kept by the power of God through faith unto salvation ready to be revealed in the last time.

Notice the words of Newell on this verse:

"Our weak hearts, prone to legalism and unbelief, receive these words with great difficulty: God is for us ... They have failed Him; but He is for them. They are ignorant; but He is for them. They have not yet brought forth much fruit; but He is for them."

Let us now notice Paul's reasoning.

Notice Romans 8:32

As we read this verse we need to stop and consider something that is often overlooked. God gave His Son for us when we were sinners and when we were His enemies.

Romans 5:8-10

⁸ *But God commendeth his love toward us, in that, while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us.*

⁹ *Much more then, being now justified by his blood, we shall be saved from wrath through him.*

¹⁰ *For if, when we were enemies, we were reconciled to God by the death of his Son, much more, being reconciled, we shall be saved by his life.*

It was when we were His enemies that He gave His Son so that we could be saved. Now we are no longer enemies but now we are His children! If He gave the best when we were His enemies how much more will He now give since we are His children? Notice the words of an unnamed writer:

"During the American Civil War, a farmer in New York was drafted for the Union army. His wife had died and he was the sole support of his young children. But then an unmarried man in the town who had no dependents came to his home and offered to go to war in his place. For the sake of his children, the farmer accepted the offer. The generous friend marched off to battle, and in the first engagement he was shot and killed. When the farmer heard what had happened, he went to the scene of the battle and brought back the body. He buried his friend in the village churchyard, and had these words engraved on the headstone: He Died for Me. The truth of the gospel is that Jesus gave His life for us while we were His enemies. The implications are staggering. If Christ died for us while we were enemies, how much more will the living Christ do for us now that He has made us His friends! We can be sure that not only will He preserve us from God's wrath against sin, but He will give us everything we need—in this life and the next."

Conclusion:

I will close with a story from the Daily Bread:

Cheese Sandwiches - Author Peter Kreeft tells the story of a poor European family who saved for years to buy tickets to sail to America. Once at sea, they carefully rationed the cheese and bread they had brought for the journey.

After 3 days, the boy complained to his father, "I hate cheese sandwiches. If I don't eat anything else before we get to America, I'm going to die." Giving the boy his last nickel, the father told him to go to the ship's galley and buy an ice-cream cone.

When the boy returned a long time later with a wide smile, his worried dad asked, "Where were you?"

"In the galley, eating three ice-cream cones and a steak dinner!"

"All that for a nickel?"

"Oh, no, the food is free," the boy replied. "It comes with the ticket."