

"The Doctrine of Glorification"

Romans 8:14-8:39

Part 11

Introduction: Tonight, in our study of the book of Romans we are again coming back to chapter 8. This has proven to be a marvelous chapter in which we have seen the security of the believer by what Paul has recorded here. Paul opened this chapter with a very profound statement and then he uses the remaining part of the chapter to support the statement.

Romans 8:1

There is therefore now no condemnation to them which are in Christ Jesus...

In the midst of our study here we have been looking at how the Holy Spirit has guaranteed our glorification.

Notice Romans 8:28

God's eternal purpose is to have a bride for His Son and the bride is the church and so He has called the church and He has predestinated that He will work ALL THINGS together for the good for all who receive Jesus Christ as Savior. Paul goes even further to tells us that God has predestinated that all who are saved will be conformed into the image of Jesus Christ.

Notice Romans 8:29

In the same way that we reflect the image of Adam in our humanness, so there is coming a day that in our glorified state, we shall reflect the image of Jesus Christ. God has predestinated that this will happen and there is not one situation which can ever stop this from coming to pass.

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:

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.

This predestined plan of God's can in no way be hindered because ALL THINGS work together for our good. Paul then goes on to show us that there is an unbreakable chain that God works in the lives of those who are members of the body of Jesus Christ.

Notice Romans 8:30

We see the unbreakable chain.

1. The Church is predestinated.
2. The Church is called.
3. The Church is justified.
4. The Church is (in the eyes of God) glorified.

Once we are saved this chain is a part of our lives and it can never be broken. Our final glorification is guaranteed to be accomplished by God.

Notice Romans 8:30 again.

Notice that it is GOD who does this ALL. It is not our work, but we are His work. This again connects with what we have been looking at in Ephesians. We are God's inheritance and we are the riches of His glory. He has taken us who were dead in trespasses and sins and He saved us, and His Spirit brings forth the fruit of the Spirit from our lives. We who were spiritually dead can now bring forth spiritual fruit therefore we are the riches of His glory. This then brings us to the last section of this chapter.

I. The Application of Glorification

Romans 8:31-39

Part 2

Paul is now going to raise several questions and in so doing he will assure us that our glorification is secure. We find several reasons why this is true:

A. Reason #1 - God is for us.

Notice Romans 8:31

Paul raises two questions here.

1. *What shall we then say to these things?* There is only one answer, "THANK YOU LORD!"
2. *If God be for us, who can be against us?* The answer here is, "NOBODY!"

The idea is that for someone to break the chain in verse 30 they would need to overpower God. No matter what God is always for us. When we fail, when we sin, when we drift, and the list goes on and on. God is always FOR US.

B. Reason #2 - Jesus Christ died for us.

Notice Romans 8:32

Here Paul continues to make his point. He reminds us that God delivered up His own Son for us. God did this while we were sinners and enemies of Him.

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.*

Now if God gave His Son to die for our sins while we were His enemies how much more will He do now that we are His children? I want to draw your attention to the word "FREELY" here in this verse. Let me show you how this word is defined and then give you something to consider.

"to do something pleasant or agreeable (to one), to do a favour to, gratify"

- A. *to show one's self gracious, kind, benevolent*
- B. ***to grant forgiveness, to pardon***
- C. *to give graciously, give freely, bestow*
1. ***to forgive***
2. *graciously to restore one to another*
3. *to preserve for one a person in peril*

One of the ideas behind this word means "TO FORGIVE or TO GRANT FORGIVENESS". Now let me bring that thought into this verse.

³² He that spared not his own Son, but delivered him up for us all, how shall he not with him also freely forgive us all things?

God freely provides all we need to live our new lives in Christ, and it can also be said that God freely forgives us of all our sins. God's unlimited forgiveness guarantees that we will one day be glorified because God's unlimited forgiveness makes it impossible for the believer to sin his way out of God's grace. If God delivered up His Son to save us when we were His enemies will He not also continue to freely forgive us of our offences so that we will one day reflect to image of His Son?

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:

c. Reason #3 - God has justified us.

Notice Romans 8:33

Here is another question and then a statement to support the guarantee of our glorification.

The question is, "Who shall lay any thing to the charge of God's elect?" Let me just take a moment and explain what Paul means when he says that we are the ELECT. There are three groups which the Bible refers to as the ELECT.

1. Israel

Isaiah 45:4

⁴ For Jacob my servant's sake, and Israel mine elect, I have even called thee by thy name: I have surnamed thee, though thou hast not known me.

2. The Church

Romans 8:33a

³³ Who shall lay any thing to the charge of God's elect?

Colossians 3:12

¹² Put on therefore, as the elect of God, holy and beloved, bowels of mercies, kindness, humbleness of mind, meekness, longsuffering;

3. The Righteous Angels

1 Timothy 5:21

²¹ *I charge thee before God, and the Lord Jesus Christ, and the elect angels, that thou observe these things without preferring one before another, doing nothing by partiality.*

Now because the righteous angels are called the ELECT of God, we can be sure that THE ELECT does not have anything to do with salvation. Some teach that the ELECT are those whom God has chosen for salvation. But the righteous angels are called THE ELECT and salvation does not apply to them. When the Bible refers to THE ELECT it is referring to a GROUP which has been ELECTED to be God's representatives. In the Old Testament it was Israel who represented God. The angels are God's heavenly representatives. Today it is the church who represents God.

2 Corinthians 5:19-20

¹⁹ *To wit, that God was in Christ, reconciling the world unto himself, not imputing their trespasses unto them; and hath committed unto us the word of reconciliation.*

²⁰ *Now then we are ambassadors for Christ, as though God did beseech you by us: we pray you in Christ's stead, be ye reconciled to God.*

Now let us get back to our verse.

Notice Romans 8:33 again.

The idea here is that there is no one who can bring any charges against us because the Highest Judge of all has justified us. The word "justified" means "to declare righteous". God has declared us righteous and that is a one-time legal act which cannot be reversed. We have been tried by the Highest Court in the universe and we have been declared NOT GUILTY because of the finished work of Jesus Christ on the cross.

Ephesians 1:6-7

⁶ *To the praise of the glory of his grace, wherein he hath made us accepted in the beloved.*

⁷ *In whom we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of sins, according to the riches of his grace;*

D. Reason #4 - Jesus Christ intercedes for us.

Notice Romans 8:34

Jesus Christ died for each of us and His blood was the payment for our sin debt. So, the question is, "Who can condemn us?" Jesus is the only One who can condemn us for all judgment has been given to Him.

John 5:22

²² For the Father judgeth no man, but hath committed all judgment unto the Son:

So, it is only Jesus who can condemn us, but Jesus paid our entire sin debt and after He died, He was raised from the dead and He is now seated at the right hand of God where He intercedes for us. He is our Savior and our Great High Priest. He will certainly not condemn us.

Romans 8:1

There is therefore now no condemnation to them which are in Christ Jesus...

Satan is the accuser of the brethren and he takes our failures before God every day.

Revelation 12:9-10

⁹ And the great dragon was cast out, that old serpent, called the Devil, and Satan, which deceiveth the whole world: he was cast out into the earth, and his angels were cast out with him.

¹⁰ And I heard a loud voice saying in heaven, Now is come salvation, and strength, and the kingdom of our God, and the power of his Christ: for the accuser of our brethren is cast down, which accused them before our God day and night.

When Satan brings his accusations against us to God it is then that our Lord intercedes for us. He can claim His shed blood against every accusation. But there is much more to our Lord's work of intercession. Notice the words from Walvoord on intercession:

"The results of the intercession of Christ. For those prepared to enter into its wonderful truth, the fact that Christ intercedes for His own in heaven is another guarantee of the security of the believer. While the hope of the believer for eternal salvation rests essentially on his possession of eternal life and the finished character of the death of Christ, it is undoubtedly strengthened by the fact of the intercession of Christ. In His intercession in heaven Christ sustains the believer and keeps him from many of the spiritual dangers of life. Such intercession pleads the fact that the believer is in Christ and a partaker of His righteousness. The work of Christ in intercession also pledges the ultimate sanctification of the believer and all that is necessary to effect this end. The doctrine of intercession taken as a whole makes clear that salvation is progressive. While the ultimate purpose of God is sure from the beginning in all of its time factors, salvation is a work of God for man through Christ which once begun is carried on triumphantly to its conclusion in eternity.

The doctrine of intercession emphasizes the great truth that Christ never ceases to intercede for His own. While human prayers on earth are limited in both extent and power,

the intercession of Christ knows no limits within the will of God. As an infinite person Christ is able to concentrate His intercession wholly on each individual believer without any detraction from the needs of any other. In effect, the believer is assured of the intercession of Christ in such a manner as would be true if Christ centered all His love and all His intercession on that one believer. Whatever may be the limitation of human prayers, the believer is assured that there is One who never ceases to pray to him and his needs and that this Intercessor has all power and favor with the Father and, accordingly, "is able to do exceeding abundantly above all that we ask or think"

Conclusion:

Let me pull some of these thoughts together as I close out tonight. Our glorification is guaranteed because God is for us, Jesus died for us, God has justified us, and Jesus intercedes for us. He takes all of our needs to the Father who sees that we are sure to get all we need to be conformed into the image of His Son. Because Jesus is seated at the right hand of the Father which is the hand of power, we can be sure He has the power to keep us saved and provide all we need for our sanctification.