

Blessed Assurance
“Salvation’s Golden Chain”
Romans 8:29-30
Pastor John Miller

Introduction: We all know Romans 8:28- “All things work together for good...,” but what about verses 29 and 30?

- As wonderful as verse 28 is, verses 29 and 30 are even more wonderful because they tell us how God accomplishes “our good” and “His glory.”

* Romans 8:29-30 has been called “a golden chain of five unbreakable links.”

- In the five golden links, Paul traces God’s saving purpose from eternity past to eternity future.
- Our salvation started before time in the Father’s knowledge, and it concludes beyond time in our “glorification.” Between these two, within time comes “calling” and “justification.”

* The five links in this unbreakable chain are:

- 1) Foreknowledge
- 2) Predestination
- 3) Calling
- 4) Justification
- 5) Glorification

* These doctrines trace salvation’s plan from eternity past to eternity future.

* Note two important features of this plan:

- 1) Each link in this golden chain is made and fashioned by the hand of God (Ephesians 2:8-9).
- 2) Each link is unbreakable

* Let’s look together at each of these five links in this golden chain of God’s salvation.

I. Foreknowledge (v. 29)

* (v. 29) “For whom He did foreknow...”

A. What does God’s foreknowledge mean?

1. *Proginosko*- it’s more than mere knowledge beforehand.

2. It conveys the idea that salvation as initiated by God in His eternal, loving choice.
3. It means that God set His love on us and chose us as objects of His loving purpose.
4. Illustration- Genesis 4:1- “Adam knew his wife”
5. Illustration- Amos 3:2- “You only have I known (NIV “chosen”) of all the families of the earth”
6. Illustration- Mary- “I know not a man...”
7. So, it means that God lovingly, graciously, chose us for salvation!
8. Jesus said in John 15:16- “Ye have not chosen me...”
9. Ephesians 1:4- “He as chosen us in Him before the foundation of the world that...”
10. 1 Peter 1:2- “Elect according to the foreknowledge of God the Father...”
11. But some would say “that’s not fair!”
 - a. John 3:16- “whosoever”

II. Predestination (v. 29)

* “...He also did predestinate...”

* What does “predestination” mean?

- It’s not the same as election
- Greek- *proorizo*- to decide beforehand or to mark-out
- It’s not for the unsaved...it’s only for Christians.

* What is it that God predestines?

- Answer- we see salvation’s purpose:

A. To conform believers to Christ (v. 29 “for whom...” “to be conformed to the image of His Son”). We will be like Christ. How?

1. Bodily

- a. Illustration- Philippians 3:21- “Who shall change our humble bodies...”
- b. 1 John 3:2- “But we know that when He shall appear, we shall be...”
- c. Illustration- New bodies like Jesus! “He’s the first fruits...”

2. Spiritually

- a. Holy, without sin!

B. To make Christ preeminent

1. (v. 29) “That He might be the firstborn among many brethren”
2. Illustration- Philippians 2 and Ephesians 1- “to the praise of His glorious grace”

III. Calling (v. 30)

- * With “calling” we move from eternity past to the present time.
 - The “calling” refers to God’s gracious, direct appeal to our hearts to respond in faith to His free offer of forgiveness and new life in Christ.
- * “Calling” is God’s application in time of His election before time.
 - It comes to us through the preaching of the gospel!
- * There is a “general” or “universal call.”
 - Illustration- John 7:37- “If anyone is thirsty...”
- * There is the “internal,” “specific” or “effectual call.” It’s the work of the Holy Spirit.
 - Is the Holy Spirit calling you?
 - If so, come to Jesus in faith.

IV. Justification (v. 30)

- * (v. 30) “...and whom He call, them He also justified...”
- * There is a “general” or “universal call.” Justification happens in time!
 - A. When does it happen?**
 1. The moment the sinner believes in, trusts in, or puts his faith in Jesus Christ.
 - B. What does it mean?**
 1. To be declared righteous.
 2. It’s by grace alone, through faith alone, in Christ alone.
 3. Romans 3:24- “Being justified freely by His grace, through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus.
 4. Romans 3:28- “Therefore, we conclude that a man is justified by faith without the deeds of the Law.”
- * So, if you are a Christian, you are justified!

V. Glorification (v. 30)

- * (v. 30) “...and whom He justified, them He also glorified.”

* Philippians 1:6- “Being confident of this very thing...”

* The purpose of salvation:

- 1) To make us like Jesus! (v. 29)
- 2) To bring glory and honor to Jesus! (v. 29)
 - a. It’s our glorification.

* The plan of salvation:

- 1) Foreknowledge
- 2) Predestination
- 3) Calling
- 4) Justification
- 5) Glorification

* What begins with God’s love and grace, ends in glory!

- This is one of the greatest affirmations of assurance anywhere in the Bible!
- It is all in the past tense.
 - “Glorified” (v. 30) is in the Aorist Tense.

CONCLUSION

* **This chain of five links is unbreakable!**

* **Jesus, the Good Shepherd starts with 100 sheep, and ends with 100 sheep.**

- **He said “Of all that the Father has given me, I have lost none.”**

* **Praise God we can have a blessed assurance!**