

March 22, 2026

CFBC... "More Than Conquerors" (Romans 8)

"GOD'S ETERNAL PURPOSE: PART 1"

Romans 8:29-30

Salvation. We throw the term around like it's a child's rubber ball. Preconceived notions produce an almost endless array of questions . . .

If salvation is a free gift, do I still have to obey God?

Can a Christian lose his/her salvation?

Does salvation require a belief in Christ's resurrection?

Is salvation earned by works or received by faith?

How much faith do I need to have to be saved?

We think we know what salvation means, but the richness of the word eludes most believers. For many it has been reduced to a "*Get Out of Hell Free*" card. Ken Keathley observed:

March 22, 2026

CFBC... "More Than Conquerors" (Romans 8)

Salvation is not something Jesus *gives*; salvation is something He *is*. One does not receive salvation from Jesus. You and I receive Him—the Lord Jesus Christ—for Who He is, and in receiving Him we receive salvation, redemption, and eternal life (John 14:6). A saving relationship with Jesus Christ is more than just a contractual agreement—it's a covenant relationship.

Coming to grips with the proper understanding and glory of this term is far more important than any other human endeavor. Jesus hammered this home when He said . . .

Mark 8:36... "For what does it profit a man to gain the whole world, and forfeit his soul?"

Your life in this world is like a vapor that appears for a moment and then vanishes. God created you with an immortal soul. Your life in eternity is endless. Grasping the true meaning of salvation is absolutely essential. This morning I must ask you, are you saved in the true sense of the word?

March 22, 2026

CFBC... "More Than Conquerors" (Romans 8)

Last week we explored one of the truly great promises in the Bible. Some have called this verse, *"A soft pillow for a tired heart."*

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.

One look at this verse and you might be thinking, *"Paul, how can you be so sure?"* For you, life is hard. How can you know beyond a shadow of a doubt that this promise is true?

Without Romans 8:29-30, the amazing promise in verse 28 is just wishful thinking. How God accomplishes our good and His glory according to HIS PURPOSE is clarified in verses 29 and 30.

Instead of wading in the shallow end of theology's pool, we're going to dive into the deep end. Casting our preconceived notions about *SALVATION* aside, we're going to examine five power-packed doctrinal words that provide the clarity we desperately need. They are so closely

March 22, 2026

CFBC... "More Than Conquerors" (Romans 8)

connected that they have rightly been described as *"a golden chain of five unbreakable links that are forged in heaven."* Each of these words speak of God's supernatural activity in this matter of salvation.

Before we jump into these words, I want to present to you the truth that ties them together. Here it is . . .

GOD IS THE AUTHOR OF SALVATION.

These five words are verbs, all of which are in the aorist (past) tense. They describe for us how God has carried out His eternal purpose and how He will finish what He started.

So, with humility and a teachable spirit let's allow the Holy Spirit to take the first two of these words and give us a foundation of truth concerning salvation. Here's the first word . . .

1. GOD'S FOREKNOWLEDGE

"For those whom He foreknew"

March 22, 2026

CFBC... "More Than Conquerors" (Romans 8)

There is nothing that God does not know. Furthermore, there has never been a single moment of time throughout all of eternity when God did not know everything.

So, the first word we're going to deal with today is "**Foreknew**" (*proginōskō*). This special knowledge includes all that He has considered and purposed to do prior to human history. It goes beyond *awareness*. This term is reserved for those matters which God favorably, deliberately and freely chose and ordained ahead of time.

Spiros Zodhiates, [*The Complete Word Study Dictionary: New Testament*](#) (Chattanooga, TN: AMG Publishers, 2000).

In its verb and noun forms this word is used 5 times in the New Testament in reference to God (Acts 2:23, Rom. 8:29, 11:2, 1 Pet. 1:2, 20).

Acts 2:22–23... "Men of Israel, listen to these words: Jesus the Nazarene, a man attested to you by God with miracles and wonders and signs which God performed through Him in your midst, just as you yourselves know— **23** this *Man*, delivered over by the

March 22, 2026

CFBC... "More Than Conquerors" (Romans 8)

predetermined plan and foreknowledge of God, you nailed to a cross by the hands of godless men and put *Him* to death.

1 Peter 1:20–21... For He was foreknown before the foundation of the world, but has appeared in these last times for the sake of you **21** who through Him are believers in God, who raised Him from the dead and gave Him glory, so that your faith and hope are in God.

Believers are *foreknown* in the same way the Lord Jesus Christ is *foreknown*. Before the foundation of the world, it was predetermined by the Trinity that Jesus would be the Savior of the sinful human race. Even our Lord's death on the cross was foreknown and foreordained.

Therefore, in the same way it was predetermined or foreordained by God that you would be saved by trusting the Lord Jesus. Before the foundation of the earth, God knew us intimately and made a free, sovereign choice to save us in Christ Jesus. That baffles me, but it is fact. This is where Paul begins.

March 22, 2026

CFBC... "More Than Conquerors" (Romans 8)

Ephesians 1:3–4... Blessed *be* the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly *places* in Christ, **4** just as He chose us in Him before the foundation of the world, that we would be holy and blameless before Him

God didn't choose to save you because He knew ahead of time that you would believe in Jesus. Had that been the case, then your salvation would be focused on your merit, not God's mercy.

1 Peter 1:1–2... Peter, an apostle of Jesus Christ, **To** those who reside as aliens, scattered throughout Pontus, Galatia, Cappadocia, Asia, and Bithynia, who are chosen **2** according to the foreknowledge of God the Father, by the sanctifying work of the Spirit, to obey Jesus Christ and be sprinkled with His blood: May grace and peace be yours in the fullest measure.

Wayne Grudem wrote the following in his Systematic Theology book:

March 22, 2026

CFBC... "More Than Conquerors" (Romans 8)

"People who remain in unbelief do so because they are unwilling to come to God, and the blame for such unbelief always lies with the unbelievers themselves, never with God."

God's foreknowledge and election remind us that God alone initiates our salvation. This thought should humble us and help us to realize that there is not one shred of merit that we contribute to the salvation of our souls and our inclusion in the family of God!

GOD IS THE AUTHOR OF SALVATION.

The first word is FOREKNOWLEDGE. Get this. God knows everything about you, yet He still chose to save you without violating your freedom to choose to believe in Jesus! Here's the second word in the golden chain of salvation . . .

March 22, 2026

CFBC... "More Than Conquerors" (Romans 8)

2. GOD'S PREDESTINATION

"He also predestined to become conformed to the image of His Son"

This means to decide upon beforehand, to predetermine. In the present context, the emphasis is not election to salvation. Rather, God has predestined believers to be conformed to the image of His Son.

What was God's predetermined destiny for Jesus, the Son of God? God predestined Jesus to die on the cross for sinners. The evil and powerful men who crucified Christ could not have done anything to Him if it had not been God's predetermined destiny for Him. Because of the predetermined destiny of Jesus Christ God has predestined every believer to salvation through Christ's atoning sacrifice on the cross.

Acts 4:27–28... "For truly in this city there were gathered together against Your holy servant Jesus, whom You anointed, both Herod and Pontius Pilate, along with the

March 22, 2026

CFBC... "More Than Conquerors" (Romans 8)

Gentiles and the peoples of Israel, **28** to do whatever Your hand and Your purpose predestined to occur.

This word is not used for the unsaved. It is only used in relation to those who are saved. **God does not predestine anyone to go to hell.** The Bible says that God is "not willing that any should perish, but that all should come to repentance."

People are condemned because they refuse to repent of their sins and place their faith in the Lord Jesus Christ.

John 3:18... "He who believes in Him is not judged; he who does not believe has been judged already, because he has not believed in the name of the only begotten Son of God.

Think about the emphasis of predestination in this context. **God, the sole author of salvation, decided what He was going to do with you before He chose to save you!** So, what does it mean to be conformed to the image of the Lord Jesus Christ?

March 22, 2026

CFBC... "More Than Conquerors" (Romans 8)

1 John 3:2... Beloved, now we are children of God, and it has not appeared as yet what we will be. We know that when He appears, we will be like Him, because we will see Him just as He is.

First, we will be like Christ physically. We're actually going to have the same kind of body that Jesus has right now in heaven. What kind of body does Jesus have in heaven?—the same glorified and immortal body He was resurrected with.

Think about it. God determined that the believer will receive a new body that will never experience sickness, sorrow, sadness, weakness, aches, pains, or death.

Philippians 3:20–21... For our citizenship is in heaven, from which also we eagerly wait for a Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ; **21** who will transform the body of our humble state into conformity with the body of His glory, by the exertion of the power that He has even to subject all things to Himself.

March 22, 2026

CFBC... "More Than Conquerors" (Romans 8)

Second, we will be like Christ spiritually. We will be perfectly holy and righteous inside and out for all of eternity.

2 Corinthians 5:21... He made Him who knew no sin *to be* sin on our behalf, so that we might become the righteousness of God in Him.

Ephesians 1:4... just as He chose us in Him before the foundation of the world, that we would be holy and blameless before Him.

This is just a glimpse of what the future holds for the believer. He/She will be gradually conformed to the image of Christ as they grow spiritually. I'm not sure we could ever fully grasp the reality of perfection that awaits us.

"So that He would be the firstborn among many brethren"

The supremacy of Christ is reflected in the designation "firstborn." Beyond what God has planned for the one who receives Jesus as Savior and Lord, His eternal purpose is to exalt Jesus by

March 22, 2026

CFBC... "More Than Conquerors" (Romans 8)

making Him preeminent. There is no one greater and no one more glorious than our Lord!

Colossians 1:15... He is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn of all creation.

Colossians 1:18... He is also head of the body, the church; and He is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead, so that He Himself will come to have first place in everything.

God redeems us and conforms us to the image of His Son that the He might reign over a redeemed, glorified, and eternal kingdom!

CONCLUSION

Here's the truth that binds the golden chain of salvation together with an unbreakable connection . . .

GOD IS THE AUTHOR OF SALVATION.

Today, we've dealt with God's foreknowledge and God's predestination.

March 22, 2026

CFBC... "More Than Conquerors" (Romans 8)

J. Vernon McGee explained this text like this. If God foreknew 100 people, then he predestined 100. If God predestined 100, he called 100. If God called 100, he justified 100. If God justified 100, then he glorified 100. It's not as if God starts out with 100 people but loses some in the process.

*Do you have confidence that you have experienced the salvation God has made available? If you are, then you need to know that you are eternally secure. Are you growing spiritually and becoming more like Jesus?

*Some of you may have been deceived by your preconceived notions about salvation. . .

You've received enough truth today to know that we do not receive salvation from Jesus. You and I receive Him, and in receiving Him we receive salvation, redemption, and eternal life.

John 10:9... I am the door; if anyone enters through Me, he will be saved, and will go in and out and find pasture.

March 22, 2026

CFBC... "More Than Conquerors" (Romans 8)