

March 29, 2026

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

"GOD'S ETERNAL PURPOSE: PART 2"

Romans 8:30

Welcome to church on this Palm Sunday. Christians all over the world will gather in their churches to celebrate *The Triumphal Entry of Jesus* into Jerusalem. The importance of this story is implied by the fact that it appears in all four gospels. It marks the beginning of the most important week of our Lord's life. It will culminate with His death on the cross on *Good Friday* (**6:15 Friday evening**) and His *Resurrection* on Sunday morning (**8:45 & 10:45 Sunday morning**). Believe me. Our Lord knew what His purpose was . . .

Luke 19:10... "For the Son of Man has come to seek and to save that which was lost."

Our Lord's destiny was predetermined before the foundation of the world and was written into the Word of God from beginning to end. Peter nailed it when he said:

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Acts 4:12... "And there is salvation in no one else; for there is no other name under heaven that has been given among men by which we must be saved."

Last week we jumped into the deep end of the theological pool to consider the meaning of "salvation." We began examining five power-packed doctrinal words that have been properly named, "The Golden Chain of Salvation." Each of these words speaks to God's supernatural activity in this matter of saving our souls. Here's our take-away truth . . .

GOD IS THE AUTHOR OF SALVATION.

These five words are verbs, all of which are in the aorist (past) tense. They describe how God has carried out His eternal purpose. Let's review the first two links in the golden chain of salvation:

1. GOD'S FOREKNOWLEDGE

"For those whom He foreknew"

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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. In love **5** *He predestined us to adoption as sons through Jesus Christ to Himself according to the kind intention of His will,* **6** to the praise of the glory of His grace, which He freely bestowed on us in the Beloved.

Before the world was created, God knew us intimately and made a free, sovereign choice to save us in Christ Jesus. Here's the second link in God's golden chain of salvation . . .

2. GOD'S PREDESTINATION

““For those whom He foreknew, He also predestined to become conformed to the image of His Son”

This verb means to decide upon beforehand. In the present context, I want you to notice that God predetermined what He would do with those

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whom He chose. He predestined believers to be conformed to the image of His Son both spiritually and physically. It is truly a supernatural transformation!

GOD IS THE AUTHOR OF SALVATION.

Okay, we've reviewed God's foreknowledge and God's predestination. Now let's take a close look at the final 3 links in the golden chain of salvation. . .

3. GOD'S CALLING

"And these whom He predestined, He also called"

The call of God is the historical application of the His eternal foreknowledge and His eternal predestination. **GOD INITIATES SALVATION THROUGH THE MINISTRY OF THE HOLY SPIRIT. . .**

John 6:44... "No one can come to Me unless the Father who sent Me draws him; and I will raise him up on the last day."

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John 16:7–8... "But I tell you the truth, it is to your advantage that I go away; for if I do not go away, the Helper will not come to you; but if I go, I will send Him to you. **8** "And He, when He comes, will convict the world concerning sin and righteousness and judgment."

There is a general call to salvation (John 7:37-39). Then there is a specific call to salvation. Here's a good example . . .

Acts 16:13–15... And on the Sabbath day we went outside the gate to a riverside, where we were supposing that there would be a place of prayer; and we sat down and began speaking to the women who had assembled. **14** A woman named Lydia, from the city of Thyatira, a seller of purple fabrics, a worshiper of God, was listening; and the Lord opened her heart to respond to the things spoken by Paul. **15** And when she and her household had been baptized, she urged us, saying, "If you have judged me to be faithful to the Lord, come into my house and stay." And she prevailed upon us.

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Grudem wrote:

Effective calling is an act of God the Father, speaking through the human proclamation of the gospel, in which he summons people to himself in such a way that they respond in saving faith....We must always insist that this response still has to be a voluntary, willing response in which the individual person puts his or her trust in Christ. (Systematic Theology, p. 693)

The call of God on our lives is purposeful and powerful. Are you a believer?

- **You received a gospel witness.**
- **You heard a sermon.**
- **You were given a gospel tract.**
- **You read the Bible.**

The Holy Spirit began to draw you, to woo you, to open your mind, and to create an interest in your heart. Like Lydia, you responded by repenting of your sin and by receiving Jesus as your Savior and Lord by faith!

GOD IS THE AUTHOR OF SALVATION.

He foreknew you. He predestined you. He called you (He may be calling some of you this morning). Now we come to the fourth link in the golden chain of salvation . . .

4. GOD'S JUSTIFICATION

"And these whom He called, He also justified"

This word means to recognize, to set forth as righteous, to declare righteous, to justify as a judicial act. It signifies the establishment of a person as just by acquittal from guilt.¹

Romans 3:23–26... for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God, **24** being justified as a gift by His grace through the redemption which is in Christ Jesus; **25** whom God

¹ W. E. Vine, Merrill F. Unger, and William White Jr., [*Vine's Complete Expository Dictionary of Old and New Testament Words*](#) (Nashville, TN: T. Nelson, 1996), 338.

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displayed publicly as a propitiation in His blood through faith. *This was* to demonstrate His righteousness, because in the forbearance of God He passed over the sins previously committed; **26** for the demonstration, *I say*, of His righteousness at the present time, so that He would be just and the justifier of the one who has faith in Jesus.

Romans 5:1... Therefore, having been justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ.

Romans 5:8–9... But God demonstrates His own love toward us, in that while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us. **9** Much more then, having now been justified by His blood, we shall be saved from the wrath *of God* through Him.

Stott commented on this great word,

"...Justification is more than forgiveness or acquittal or even acceptance; it is a declaration that we sinners are now righteous in God's sight, because of his conferment upon us of a righteous

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status, which is indeed the righteousness of Christ himself....He became sin with our sin, so that we might become righteous with his righteousness." (Stott, p. 253)

Salvation is a work of God ALONE.

GOD IS THE AUTHOR OF SALVATION.

He foreknew you. He predestined you. He called you. He justified you. Now we come to the fifth and final link in the golden chain of salvation . . .

5. GOD'S GLORIFICATION

"And these whom He justified, He also glorified"

Here is the climax of God's Eternal Purpose; it involves the ultimate and complete conformity of the believer to the image of Christ.

Colossians 1:25–27... Of *this church* I was made a minister according to the stewardship from God bestowed on me for your benefit, so that I might fully carry out the *preaching of*

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the word of God, **26** *that is*, the mystery which has been hidden from the *past* ages and generations, but has now been manifested to His saints, **27** to whom God willed to make known what is the riches of the glory of this mystery among the Gentiles, which is Christ in you, the hope of glory.

Colossians 3:4... When Christ, who is our life, is revealed, then you also will be revealed with Him in glory.

Paul used the noun 'glory' several times in the book of Romans. . .

- **As sinners we fall short of His glory (3:23)**
- **As believers, we confidently and joyfully look forward to sharing God's glory (5:2)**
- **As we share His sufferings, we will share His glory (8:18)**

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Our destiny as believers is to be given new bodies in a new world, both of which will be transfigured with the glory of God.²

CONCLUSION

In our text, God is pictured as moving irresistibly from from an eternal foreknowledge and predestination, through a historical call and justification, to a final glorification of His people in a future eternity. It resembles a golden chain of five links, each of which is unbreakable.³ Here's the truth you've got to etch in your heart:

GOD IS THE AUTHOR OF SALVATION.

² John R. W. Stott, [*The Message of Romans: God's Good News for the World*](#), The Bible Speaks Today (Leicester, England; Downers Grove, IL: InterVarsity Press, 2001), 253.

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You start a project and don't complete it. You start reading a book and never finish it. I'm thrilled to tell you that **God will finish what He has started in your life.** As a believer, you are eternally secure in Christ.

The Spirit of God didn't inspire Paul to write Romans 8:29-30 so we would sit around and endlessly debate Calvinism vs. Arminianism. Paul included these verses to save sinners like us and to give us confidence in Christ and joy unspeakable and full of glory. Hallelujah. What a Savior!

.....

A pastor asked a dying man, *"My friend, what persuasion are you?"*

The man replied, *"I am of Paul's persuasion."*

The pastor said, *"I am afraid you didn't understand me. Of what persuasion are you?"*

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The man answered, *"Oh, I understood you. I am of Paul's persuasion."*

The pastor then said, *"I'm afraid I don't understand you. There is a Methodist persuasion, Baptist persuasion, Lutheran, Presbyterian, and Nazarene persuasion, but what do you mean by 'Paul's persuasion?'"*

The man smiled and then quoted the Apostle Paul's words in 2 Timothy 1:12:

I am not ashamed; for I know whom I have believed and I am convinced that He is able to guard what I have entrusted to Him until that day.

I like "Paul's Persuasion" better than anyone else's! Have you believed in Jesus?

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