

Romans: The Gospel

The Love of God

Romans 8:28-39

<p>Just got done talking about suffering <u>with Jesus...</u> an heir, adopted</p> <p>Today: touchy subject - predestination</p> <p><i>"If you have come to a stronger personal conviction on one side of a doctrinal issue, please grant us the privilege of first seeing how it has helped you to become more Christ like in your nature, and then we will judge whether we need to come to that same persuasion. Let us always be certain to look at the fruit of the teaching." CS, Calvinism, Arminianism & The Word of God</i></p> <p>[Pray]</p>	<p>:28</p> <p>And we <u>know...</u> <i>That's a fact, Jack</i></p> <p>Christian logic starts at the very top: with God</p> <p>Might not know... Why? How? Who? Where? When? But He's allowed it</p> <p>We know He's involved. He's good. And He's loving. He has a plan. A purpose.</p> <p><u>Homework Job 1:6-12</u></p>
<p>...Work together a tapestry, complex mechanisms</p> <p>Plane trip <i>booking, fuel, pilot skill, aerodynamics, mining of material and fuel, jet technology, radar, electricity, satellite internet</i></p> <p><i>You just get on, watch a movie, get off in another city</i></p> <p>It's about trust. We don't ask how the plane works, we trust.</p> <p>How much more we should trust God when He's working!</p> <p><i>Lord, hurry up!</i></p>	<p>What's it all for in your life as a believer? For Good Good, useful, pleasant, joyful, <u>honorable</u></p> <p><u>The physical situations - even bad - are meant for spiritual good</u></p> <p>Good things take time</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● "If it's not good, He's not done yet" ● <i>Half baked cookies, maybe</i> ● <i>Half baked chicken</i> <p>It's not over until it's over. It might feel like the end of the 4th quarter, but it's not over until the buzzer</p> <p><i>We like shortcuts. Move on to something else Finishing medicine, have to finish the task</i></p>

DG - God didn't begin a work...to simply to abandon them in the midst of their present suffering.

Does everything work for good for everyone? Sadly, no.

God will try to use it for good - but if you don't love God you won't let Him work

Genesis 50:20 - "But as for you, you meant evil against me; **but God meant it for good**, in order to bring it about as it is this day, to save many people alive.

It is to those who love God Do you love God?

1 John 4:19 - We love Him because He first loved us.

If you don't love God. You won't trust God.
If you don't trust God you won't let God work.

**So if you love God, let Him work
It'll be for good.**

Not:

- The way you want
- How you expect
- What others think is good
- You might lose, stay sick
- But guaranteed it's good (better)

**For Good means better spiritually
Guaranteed.**

Homework: Numbers 11

Psalm 106:13-15 - They soon forgot His works; They did not wait for His counsel, But lusted exceedingly in the wilderness, And tested God in the desert. **And He gave them their request, But sent leanness into their soul.**

Be careful what you wish pray for...

- So love God
- remember He has a plan
- You are called to that plan
- And it's part of a bigger purpose

Just remember

- He's in control
- He has a plan
- He is love
- He loves you

Isaiah 55:8-11 - "For My thoughts are not your thoughts, Nor are your ways My ways," says the LORD. "For as the heavens are higher than the earth, So are My ways higher than your ways, And My thoughts than your thoughts. "For as the rain comes down, and the snow from heaven, And do not return there, But water the earth, And make it bring forth and bud, That it may give seed to the sower And bread to the eater, **So shall My word be that goes forth from My mouth; It shall not return to Me void, But it shall accomplish what I please, And it shall prosper in the thing for which I sent it.**

:29-30

Foreknew

to have knowledge **before hand**

Insider trading, giving secrets to the enemy

God knew you before you were born!

You didn't exist in the ether like the cults believe

Jeremiah 1:5 - "Before I formed you in the womb I knew you; Before you were born I sanctified you; I ordained you a prophet to the nations."

That's comfort. God knew what He was doing when He made you!

- Knew what your life would bring
- And how He'd be there for you.

God doesn't make mistakes

- You are not a mistake
- You might have made mistakes (or worse)
- God can turn that around
- You being imperfect is in the plan!

Joel 2:25 - "So I will restore to you the years that the swarming locust has eaten,..."

The predestined part isn't so much about you... as it is about Him!

Predestined - God planned beforehand for good for you - a good end
Wanting to have a baby

Called - once you existed His Word and Spirit calling you to come to Him
Speaking to them in the womb, talking to them after being born

Justified - Receiving Jesus, just as if you never didn't know Him, ever were apart in sin

Glorified - Finished your race, at the end, receive all the glory of heaven and the heir of

Predestined

pre - destinated

God set the destination on your life's map before you even existed - heaven! Back to Him!

The plan for you all along:

- Know Him
- Go to heaven
- Be made into the image of Jesus

You look like Him physically already

Now for spiritually - being born again, maturing, **sanctification**

Ephesians 4:15 - but, speaking the truth in love, may **grow up in all things into Him who is the head--Christ--**

all good things - weight of glory more than the weight of suffering

All this in love.

Being predestined isn't a heady argument, it's a hearty one - it's about His love for you.

1 John 4:8-11 - He who does not love does not know God, for God is love. In this the love of God was manifested toward us, that God has sent His only begotten Son into the world, that we might live through Him. In this is love, not that we loved God, but that He loved us and sent His Son to be the propitiation for our sins. Beloved, if God so loved us, we also ought to love one another.

John 3:16-17 - "For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life. "For God did not send His Son into the world to condemn the world, but that the world through Him might be saved.

- Predestination
- Free will
- Fate and destiny

Can anyone be saved? Or just who God wants?

Homework-

- Calvinism, Arminianism & The Word of God
- Resources > learn > educational videos - Mike Winger 2x on Calvinism (short and long)

Calvinism says only those God predestined can be saved

- If true, why share the gospel?
- Not believing Calvin says you think God tries to save and loses - not omnipotent (rock too big argument)

Calvinism considers faith a work and since works can't save our faith must be totally God

It's all myopic - forest for the trees

- elevate our ability to understand,
- put God in a framework
- Much like trying to understand the trinity

Door, 2 sides, Come all | I chose you

In the midst of this heated argument it is easy to ignore or neglect the plain statements of the Bible, or to believe that we have the ability to fully understand the ways of God. CA&TWG

**It's both - God saves, we receive
Because it's a LOVE relationship**

We are not will-less robots without choice

Even the angels had a choice, once

God is not using a playstation controller on the one's he chose to chose him! And player 2 is the enemy on the rest

So how does he foreknow? - because he's omniscient!

He has a great plan for us - and that plan could constantly be in flux - backup plan after backup plan - for Good for us - even when we reject Him

Trust - God foreknew, predestined
But I still chose

The truth is:

- God can sav. Did save. But won't force to receive it.
- I only have two choices. My will or his will.

All our work is resistance to God's grace

When we have faith, we've stopped working for salvation and started trusting in His working

**Faith is not our work,
it's trusting in His work**

**When does faith start?
When we choose to stop working
and let God work - trust**

That's the freewill choice

Predestined to walk in it

If we'd stop walking the other way

"The death of Christ provided the grounds for God to save all men, but each must exercise his own "free will" in order to be saved." C. Smith

"The Holy Spirit "woos" all to Christ...but man can resist with free will"

We're made in His image - free will is a part of that.

**God can do to whatever he wants.
But he's a gentleman.
He will never force you.**

**In fact, that's the essence of prayer
"Not my will, but yours be done"
Us, giving over our will, to let His be done**

**Grace can be resisted or received
That's the very choice itself**

**** You don't need the right doctrine to be saved. Just to trust Jesus for it.*

Garden of Eden

Tree of knowledge of Good and evil (figure it out ourselves, work) looks like life, is death

Tree of Life - trust God knows best, lie says it means we have no choice, but have life

What sways me most from Calvinism?

The lack of love.

- God's love for me
- My love reflecting His back
- His love for the lost
- The bigger picture of all scripture

**Not to say all adherents aren't believers
Or don't love God or evangelize**

May pillars of the faith: Spurgeon, Sproul

I've never seen it bear fruit to love

Only bear fruit to argument

Bear fruit to headiness

Bear fruit to not loving the lost

Want me to be Calvinist

more than unbeliever a Christian.

**Just because we won't or don't
doesn't mean God can't.**

- God knew that all along.
- But still gave you the choice.
- And still wants you make the right choice.

John 10:27 - "My sheep hear My voice, and I know them, and they follow Me.

the sweetness of His voice, His call, and to follow Him

:31-32

If God is for us who can be against us? So who's side are we on?

Joshua 5:13-14 - And it came to pass, when Joshua was by Jericho, that he lifted his eyes and looked, and behold, a Man stood opposite him with His sword drawn in His hand. **And Joshua went to Him and said to Him, "Are You for us or for our adversaries?" So He said, "No, but as Commander of the army of the LORD I have now come."**

- **Are we kicking against the goads?** Like Paul?
Kicking against what God wants?

God predestined good for you

- if even the bad isn't good,
- is it because you're resisting Him?

Since God cares that much for you Who can stop that? Just you!

God didn't even hold Jesus' death back from you. Why would He hold anything else good? Love? Attention? Affection? Good things?

James 4:2, 7-8, 10 -... **Yet you do not have because you do not ask.(according to His will) ... Therefore submit to God.** Resist the devil and he will flee from you. **Draw near to God and He will draw near to you. ...**

DG If all we had were the first few chapters of the Book of Romans, some might believe that God was against us... just because a man thinks God is with him does not make it so. God is only for us if we are reconciled to Him through Jesus Christ.

:33-34

God doesn't accuse you or condemn you!

Only the enemy does!

God forgives! God took your judgment so He wouldn't have to judge you!

*If that voice is condemning, it's not God
If that voice is convicting, that is God
Sin will twist the two*

Conviction heeded prevents condemnation

Makes intercession for us

He's our great High priest

The go-between between you and the Father: Jesus himself.

That should be a relief! God himself steps in on your behalf

Knowing you fully

Wanting and planning only good for you

Making the way for you not to be judged

Your very own personal defense attorney

The glove fits but you still will be acquitted!

Hebrews 4:14-16 - Seeing then that we have a great High Priest who has passed through the heavens, Jesus the Son of God, let us hold fast our confession. **For we do not have a High Priest who cannot sympathize with our weaknesses,** but was in all points tempted as we are, yet without sin. **Let us therefore come boldly to the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy and find grace to help in time of need.**

:35-39

Paul knew a lot about these things

What have we gone through?

Tribulation, distress, persecution, nakedness, peril, sword - others against, God for!

**Apply to normal, everyday, life, yes
But really, the life because you're a Christian**

"For Your sake we are killed"

Because you're doing His will

This is real Christianity

Probably why we're afraid to live it

And why the church is what it is in America

If we're honest...

Has God ever left you?

Or was it you who left God?

Deuteronomy 31:6 - "Be strong and of good courage, do not fear nor be afraid of them; for the LORD your God, He is the One who goes with you. **He will not leave you nor forsake you.**"

How often it is we are the ones who turn when things get hard!

We forget:

- God is good and is love
- God's adopted us and we're heirs
- Suffering is guaranteed in a fallen world - so might as well suffer for the right reasons
- God has a plan and a purpose
- It's all working together for good!

And God allows it all to get you back to Him...

**Even if you reject Jesus
His love is still for you**

That's hell - total separation from His love

That's why life is bad now, but somehow you're still here

**Even if you lack things in this life
You'll never lack Him
And that's the good**

He's conquered, you're more than even the good of that

How do we win? And more than win?

Because our winning isn't about this world

The love of God

And where is that found? In Jesus.

**The more we're made like Jesus,
the more suffering we'll go through**

But the more suffering we go through, the more we find His love is closer than ever

Let his plans for you - for good - come to pass

Predestined. Forknew.

- The plan was always to love you.
- Let that love cause you to love Him back.

**There's no need to be separated
From the Love of God**