

LESSON 16: ROMANS 8:28-39
OCTOBER 7, 2020

OVERVIEW

- . God works for the good of those who love Him – Romans 8:28
- . Golden chain of five links – Romans 8:29-30
- . Four questions designed to give us maximum assurance – Romans 8:31-39

GOD WORKS FOR THE GOOD OF THOSE WHO LOVE HIM – ROMANS 8:28

- . How are we to interpret this
 - . God loves us – John 3:16
 - . He demonstrates His love for us through Christ
 - . Christ, the Messiah, has provided us with a way back in to God's good grace
 - . Christ is the way
 - . Scripture tells us Christ is the only way to attain salvation and justification
 - . We demonstrate our love for God by trusting Him and choosing to have faith in the One He sent
 - . Through faith we are saved
 - . Through faith God works for the good of those who love Him
- . What is "the good"
 - . Not to be confused with earthly riches
 - . Not to be confused with earthly power or privilege
 - . "The good" is the process of being conformed to the likeness of His Son
 - . In this way there is righteous living
 - . In this there can be found peace and joy
 - . The good sometimes embraces bad things
 - . The good is about knowing rather than feeling

A GOLDEN CHAIN OF FIVE LINKS – ROMANS 8:29-30

- . Divine foreknowledge
 - . Composed of two words
 - . "Fore" which means beforehand
 - . "Knowledge" which means to know
 - . God knew before any of His creation that He wanted to have a relationship with His Creation

- . The object of foreknowledge is not the actions of certain people but the people themselves
- . In creating an eternal family for Himself modeled upon His unique Son, God set His attention and affection on those destined for His eternal purpose
- . Foreknowledge means that salvation has its origin in God, not in human desire, decision or deeds

- . Predestination
 - . Having fixed His distinguishing and prevailing love upon us, God also appointed us to be conformed to the likeness of His Son

- . Calling
 - . The calling is internal, specific, and effectual
 - . It not only issues the invitation but provides the ability and willingness to respond
 - . It is God drawing to Himself or bringing to spiritual life the one who without that call would remain spiritually dead and far from Him

- . Justification
 - . It is the judicial act by which God declares sinful men and women to be in right standing before Him
 - . This is not on the basis of their own merit, but on the basis of what Jesus Christ has done for them by dying in their place on the cross
 - . Having punished those sins God then imputes the perfect righteousness of Jesus Christ to their account
 - . Justification is always connected with faith and belief

- . Glorification
 - . It means being made like Jesus Christ
 - . It is answering the call to be Holy – as Holy as God is Holy
 - . It is the ability to be the light that God calls us to be

**FOUR QUESTIONS DESIGNED TO GIVE US MAXIMUM ASSURANCE -
ROMANS 8:31-37**

- . If God is for us who can be against us – Romans 8:32
 - . As a Christian, there are three forces working against us
 - . The world
 - . The flesh
 - . Satan
 - . God is greater than all three and God is sovereign over all three
 - . Therefore, despite the forces against us, if aligned with God we will ultimately be victorious over those forces working against God

- . Who will bring any charges against those whom God has chosen – Romans 8:33
 - . Since it is God alone who justifies and since He we have received justification through our belief in Christ, who can possibly change that verdict
- . Who then is the one who condemns – Romans 8:34
 - . No one
- . Who shall separate us from the love of Christ – Romans 8:35
 - . Trouble or hardship – only if we let it
 - . Persecution or famine or nakedness – only if we let it
 - . Danger or sword – only if we let it
 - . Our faith doesn't protect us from the troubles of everyday life
 - . If we remain in the faith and don't lose hope, then scripture tells us there is nothing that can separate us from the love of Christ
- . The love of God in Jesus Christ – Romans 8:38-39
 - . Paul ends this portion of the letter with a personal testimony
 - . Paul answers the above questions by saying "In all these things we are more than conquerors through Him who loved us"
 - . Paul is convinced, through the trials of his own personal journey, that there is nothing that can separate us from the love of God that is in Christ Jesus our Lord

NEXT LESSON – WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 21, 2020 – ROMANS 9:1-5