



**GROW
IN
GRACE**
NEWSLETTER

PLEASE USE the Grow in Grace Newsletter for your own spiritual growth; and **AS A RESOURCE** to help equip you to MINISTER to others! **Volume 47, No. 10, March 15, 2022** / Southside Baptist Church / P.O. Box 1594 / 1028 South Water Avenue, Gallatin, TN 37066 (615) 452-5951 / **The Grow in Grace Newsletter is a WEEKLY Bible Study**, plus local church news notes— designed first and foremost for members and those attending services at Southside Church; and is sent forth with the desire to aid one and all, (including friends far and wide), in the experience of 2 Peter 3:18. **"But grow in grace, and in the knowledge of our LORD JESUS CHRIST!**

THE 'GOLDEN CHAIN' OF ENCOURAGEMENT FOR EVERY CHRISTIAN! (ROMANS 8:28-30!) ... AND A BIBLICAL STUDY TO HELP PREPARE US FOR THE LORD'S SUPPER, THIS SUNDAY, WHICH WILL BE the CLIMAX of our Morning Worship Service!

HERE IS VITAL ENCOURAGEMENT EVERY CHRISTIAN NEEDS: "And we know that all things work together for good to them that love God, to them who are the called according to His purpose."(Romans 8:28, KJV) THE Twentieth Century New Testament, READS: "But we do know that God causes all things to work together for the good of those who love Him- those who have received the Call in accordance with His purpose."

ROMANS 8:28 IS TRUE BECAUSE of the 'giant word', that begins verse 29: **'FOR!' "FOR those God foreknew He also predestined to be conformed to the image of His Son, that He [JESUS!] might be the firstborn among many brothers and sisters. 30 And those He predestined, He also called; those He called, He also justified; those He justified, He also glorified."**

Romans 8:28 is a precious, sustaining, empowering, and encouraging promise to every Christian— **BECAUSE verse 29 begins with the word "for" ... and the Holy Spirit given reason for being so certain is laid out in FIVE distinct actions of GOD!**

These ACTIONS OF GOD are linked together into one unbreakable chain. IN GOD'S SOVEREIGN PURPOSE, HE [GOD!] (1) Foreknows; HE (2) Predestines; HE (3) Calls; HE (4) Justifies; and HE (5) Glorifies!

Notice also that these five wonders **are true of ALL** whom He redeems. **ALL THE REDEEMED are ALL (1) Foreknown; (2) Predestined; (3) Called; (4) Justified; and (5) Glorified.** SO, YES, without question, GOD WORKS all things together for good for all those He has graciously chosen to redeem; and Romans 8:29-30 reveal the absolute GUARANTEE of the promise! All five of these DIVINE GRACE BLESSINGS are set forth as not only essential to God's eternal purpose of salvation but also as absolutely certain of fulfillment.

GLORY TO GOD— the salvation that has its origins in eternity past with God's foreknowledge, CLIMAXES in eternity future with full glorification. Each link grows out of the former link to form one unbreakable chain. Every person who is "foreknown" will be totally "glorified."

Romans 8:28 is set forth as a glorious declaration of hope and assurance— "WE KNOW" something for certain— namely, that "God causes all things to work together" for a group of people described as **"those who love God"...** who are further described as those who "are **the called** according to His purpose." *** LOVING GOD describes the true character of a true child of God— because we love Him; BECAUSE HE FIRST loved us! (1John 4:10, 19) All true Christians sincerely love God, because God has FLOODED our hearts with His love! (Romans 5:5)

GOD'S LOVE for those He redeems was SET in the mind of God, before the world began: 2 Timothy 1:9; Ephesians 1:4. — And, again, WE LOVE HIM because HE FIRST LOVED US! (1 John 4:10)

*** **"The CALLED according to his purpose"**— God sovereignly calls a numberless multitude out of every kindred, tribe, and people, (Rev. 7:9-17), by His power; and according to his own purpose and grace, before the world began! (2 Tim. 1:9)

BUT 'WHO' ARE THESE CALLED?

I. FOREKNEW: When Romans 8: 29 says, “For those whom He foreknew,”— they are the identical same people who in verse 28 “love God” and are “the called.” MOREOVER, all of those who are “foreknown” are also “predestined to become conformed into the image of His Son.” The foreknown ones and the predestined are the same identical people. All those who are foreknown and then predestined are next, in the process of time specifically “called.”

Being thus called by God brings guilty sinners out of the graveyard of sin and death; and these same ones will ultimately be glorified in heaven in full redemption. All those who are called, because they have been foreknown and predestined, are also all “justified.” In other words, everyone, without a single exception that is savingly called by the Holy Spirit unto salvation will always be justified.

[GOD HAS NO TRASH-PILE of those HE ATTEMPTED TO SAVE, or that He desired to save— BUT WAS UNABLE TO DO SO: John 17:1-26]

ALSO: “For those whom He foreknew,”— the divine foreknowledge is **NOT merely** knowledge of the actions of certain people. **Yes**, God does have all knowledge— including all knowledge about what people have done or will do. **HOWEVER, this verse says NOTHING about what people will do— IT ONLY STATES that there are specific people whom GOD FOREKNOWS. The verse is about GOD’S ACTION, not man’s actions.** MOREOVER, God’s foreknowledge, here, is personal and intimate. Example: Amos 3:2, The KJV translates the verb “know” (Hebrew, yada): “You only have I known of all the families of the earth....” IN OTHER WORDS, while it is true that God KNOWS ALL ABOUT all people— this verse, like Romans 8:29, is exclusively about GOD’S LOVING ACTION.

God chose and God placed Israel in a special love relationship. The NIV: “You only have I chosen....” [1 Thess. 1:4— KJV, “Knowing, brethren beloved, your ELECTION of God...” TCNT, “Brothers, whom God loves, we KNOW that HE HAS CHOSEN YOU!”]

***** AS TO WHAT GOD SEES when He looks upon all men as they naturally are, “The LORD looked down from heaven upon the children of men, to see if there were any that did understand, and seek God. They are all gone aside, they are all together become**

filthy; there is none that doeth good, no, not one.” (Ps. 14:2-3; Ps. 53:2-3; Romans 3:10-11)

FOREKNOWLEDGE, in Romans 8:29 is a gracious revelation that from the tragic mass of human rebels, **GOD has set His love upon a numberless multitude, whom HE HAS GIVEN to His Son! (John 10:27-30)** Foreknowledge means that salvation has its origin in the eternal counsels of God, not in man, not in any man’s actions/choices. **Foreknowledge focuses our attention on JESUS, the AUTHOR and FINISHER of our salvation!**

II. PREDESTINED: According to what the Holy Spirit moved Paul to write, our calling unto salvation by the Holy Spirit comes after and grows out of, in eternity past, GOD fore-knowing, ‘setting His love upon’ the multitudes He chooses to save for the predestined purpose of developing CHRIST-LIKENESS.

If that were not true, the text would have to read, “God calls all men, and justifies only those who are willing to believe.” (But that IS NOT how the verse reads!)

INSTEAD, the saving call of God is given specifically to all those whom the Father has GIVEN to the Son— for in salvation the POWER is in the FREE WILL OF ALMIGHTY GOD who freely wills to give a numberless multitude of hell-deserving sinners to JESUS! (John 6:37-40; John 17)

JOHN 17: *“Father, ... You have given Him [JESUS] authority over all flesh, that He should give eternal life **TO AS MANY AS You have given Him....** 6 “I have manifested Your name to the men whom You have given Me out of the world. They were Yours, You gave them to Me,... 9 “I pray for them. **I do not pray for the world but for those whom You have given Me, ... Holy Father, keep through Your name those whom You have given Me,... Those whom You gave Me I have kept; and none of them is lost except the son of perdition, that the Scripture might be fulfilled... 20 “I do not pray for these alone, but also for those who will believe in Me through their word;...24 “Father, I desire that they also whom You gave Me may be with Me where I am, that they may behold My glory which You have given Me; for You loved Me before the foundation of the world.”***

AND IN John 10:27-30, Jesus again speaks of HIS SHEEP, as being given to Him by the Father! STUNNINGLY, Jesus also tells some “WHO BELIEVED NOT”... why THEY believed not! (John 10:26) **WE DO WELL TO REMEMBER:** All humans are FALLEN and abide under the just and holy wrath of God. IN HOLY JUSTICE WE ALL GET HELL. In utter mercy and God’s FREE GRACE, a NUMBERLESS multitude is being and will be saved!

ALL WHO ARE GIVEN TO the Son by the Father (John 6:37; 17) will be brought to repentance (Acts 11:18) and faith; and NONE of those who are given to Jesus shall perish! (2 Peter 2:9) **O WHAT AMAZING GRACE:** GOD WHO WAS NOT OBLIGATED to call/save any— CHOOSES to save many!

The Holy Spirit clearly states that all without exception who are called are also justified. MOREOVER, all those who are justified will most certainly be glorified. That fact is so certain that Paul speaks of it as already past, and so it is in the eternal purposes of God.

NOTE: Quite a few CLAIM that this is the only place in Paul’s writings where he jumps from justification to glorification and skips sanctification. In reality, sanctification WAS NOT skipped— for we are PREDESTINED to Christ-likeness! (Romans 8:29) GLORIOUSLY, in Romans 8:28-30, the Holy Spirit is speaking about the “eternal purpose of God!” MOREOVER, ultimate glorification is absolutely certain for every foreknown, predestined into Christlikeness, called, and justified person.

III. CALLING: How can every Christian be sure God will do what He promises in Romans 8:28? We can be sure because, “Those, all of them, who have been foreknown by God in electing grace, are certain of ultimate salvation (total glorification) because God has sovereignly purposed to conform them, all of them, into the image of Christ!”

IN EARTHLY TIME, God’s first step in this gracious purpose is to effectually “call” them, (the foreknown and predestined ones), all of them, by the power of the Holy Spirit through the gospel. Those, all of them, whom He calls, He also “justifies” and applies to all of them the righteousness of Christ.

THE foreknown and predestined WILL be called; and calling will bring justification. Those, all of them, who are justified are already glorified in the

sovereign purposes of God. In God's mind it is what we would call a "done deal."

AS TO THE CALLING of Romans 8:29-30— this inward, heart-awakening call leads to (a) spiritual regeneration which leads to (b) Repentance unto life/faith in Jesus Christ. Regeneration, saving faith, and repentance all occur simultaneously in time.

HOWEVER, from the Divine side, regeneration comes before faith / regeneration (Acts 9:3-6; Acts 11:17; 1 John 5:1; 2 Tim. 2:25).

JESUS explained to Nicodemus, that without new birth, (regeneration), no one can SEE or ENTER the kingdom of God. (John 3:3, 5) The Ephesian Christians were plainly reminded that the way they escaped the reality of Ephesians 2:1-3, WAS DUE TO the love and mercy of God whereby GOD 'QUICKENED', gave them LIFE, new birth. (Ephesians 2:4-10)

IV. JUSTIFICATION - the declaration of a sinner as righteous before God on the basis of Christ's righteousness credited to them.

The believer is also declared completely sanctified (holy) at the moment of justification but also continues to grow in holiness practically throughout life. Conversion immediately follows regeneration/repentance/faith and justification as expressed in an outward profession of faith and water baptism.

V. GLORIFICATION— FOR ETERNITY, ALL IN CHRIST, will be with JESUS, seeing Him FACE to FACE, SERVING HIM, ruling with Him; and all the hurtful things of this present hour, will BE FORMER THINGS— ALL BECAUSE, ALL of THE CALLED, ALL OF THOSE GIVEN BY THE FATHER TO THE SON, ALL OF HIS SHEEP (Rom. 8:28; John 17; John 10:25-30)...

ALL these are, (1) all foreknown, (2) all predestined, (3) all called, (4) all justified, and (5) all glorified. THEREFORE, NOTHING nor no one 'shall be able to separate us from the LOVE OF GOD, which is in CHRIST JESUS, our LORD! (Romans 8:28-39)

THEREFORE, Romans 8:28 (KJV) "And we know that all things work together for good to them that love God, to them who are the called according to His

purpose.” Romans 8:28 (TCNT) “But we do know that God causes all things to work together for the good of those who love Him- those who have received the Call in accordance with His purpose.”

VI. WHAT IS OUR WITNESS and TESTIMONY TO DEAD IN SIN, SINNERS?

IN PRESENTING THE GOSPEL to the LOST, we rightly share with such ones the Holy law of God, so as to expose their NEED of Christ.

We share with them the love of God for sinners— the Good News, the **GOSPEL: *Jesus came, lived, died in the place of sinners on Calvary, arose, ascended, reigns in heaven, and He is coming back— therefore, REPENT! BELIEVE ON the LORD JESUS CHRIST and you will be saved!*** Thus, we plant, we water as laborers together with God; BUT GOD and GOD ALONE gives the increase!

OUR GOSPEL TESTIMONY: Years ago Harry A. Ironside, Pastor/Bible teacher, told about an older Christian who was asked to give his testimony. He told how God had sought him out and found him, how God had loved him, called him, saved him, delivered him, cleansed him, and healed him— his testimony was a great witness to the grace, power, and glory of God.

But after the meeting a brother took him aside and criticized his testimony. He said, "I appreciated all you said about what God did for you. But you didn't mention anything about your part in it. Salvation is really part us and part God. You should have mentioned something about your part."

"Oh, yes," the older Christian said. "I apologize for that. I'm sorry. I really should have said something about my part."

My part was running away, and GOD'S part was running after me until He caught me."

YES, we have all run away!

SHEEP DO NOT SEEK SHEPHARDS! IT IS JESUS THE GOOD SHEPHEARD who seeks and saves LOST SHEEP! AND when all is said and done, He will SEEK and SAVE a numberless multitude! (Revelation 7:9-17)

The Hymn writer got it right:

*** I sought the Lord, and afterward I knew;

He moved my soul to seek Him, seeking me;
it was not I that found, O Saviour true; no, I was found of Thee.

*** Thou didst reach forth Thy hand and mine enfold; I walked and sank not
on the storm-vexed sea; 'twas not so much that I on Thee took hold, as
Thou, dear Lord, on me.

*** I find, I walk, I love, but oh, the whole of love is but my answer, Lord, to
thee; for Thou wert long beforehand with my soul, always Thou lovedst me.

**THEREFORE, AS ASTOUNDED, HELL-DESERVING yet GRACE RECEIVING
SHEEP— LET US COME TO THE LORD'S TABLE THIS SUNDAY!**

Abundant Grace to all! James Bell www.southsidegallatin.org

NEWS NOTES:

SUNDAY SERVICE, March 20 / 2022

1. * Sunday School at 9:30am:** Nursery, Children's classes, Youth, and Adult classes.

2. * WORSHIP SERVICE at 10:45am! The climax of the service:
THE LORD'S TABLE**

SUNDAY SERVICE, March 27 / 2022

1. * Sunday School at 9:30am:** Nursery, Children's classes, Youth, and Adult classes. **2. *** WORSHIP SERVICE at 10:45am!**

3/27/22 ... FORTH SUNDAY EVENING WORSHIP SERVICE at 5PM. (Adam, Bradley, and others give specific preparation for this Service.... and, this month, Luke Haskins will be preaching.)

EVERY SATURDAY*** 8:00 AM, — Men's Bible Study! *(Doors open by 7:30am... coffee, juice, donuts, and Hardee's Biscuits are available!)*

***** NEXT Ladies Bible Study, March 22, @ 11:00 AM**

TUESDAYS: WEEKLY Youth Group Meeting, ages 12 and up ... Tuesdays a 7:15pm... at Jaden and Rhi's home...

WEDNESDAY NIGHTS @ SOUTHSIDE:

6:30pm— come in back 'double doors' under the Drive Thru awning!

**** Adult Prayer Service, BACK AT CHURCH BUILDING**

**** Young FAMILIES Prayer Service [ADAM or Jaden weekly communicate as to LOCATION]**

***** LOVE OFFERINGS UNTO THE LORD BY MAIL or by ONLINE GIVING:**

SUCH funds, (if checks), make out to Southside Baptist) — MAIL TO: Southside Baptist Church, P.O. Box 1594, Gallatin, TN 37066/ OR...

TO GIVE via ONLINE GIVING:

<https://southsidebaptist.breezechms.com/give/online>

HEALTH REMINDERS as to CHURCH SERVICES AND as to Responding with WISDOM and NOT fear IN SEEKING TO KEEP AS HEALTHY AS WE CAN— SO AS TO BE ACTIVE IN THE KINGDOM BUSINESS OF THE LORD!

1. IF YOU ARE SICK... [OR if you are in a state of high immune deficiency or if (at home or work) you are caring for one who is sick; or if you have • Fever; • Coughing; • Chills; • Headache; • Sore throat; etc.], Please stay home!]

2. IF YOU ARE HEALTHY and well... you may or may not choose to wear a mask... WE do not require it. WE CONTINUE to encourage FREEDOM as to 'social distancing'... masks ... vaccine choices, etc.

— PLEASE HONOR THE LORD, by continuing to give sensitivity and respect one to another.

3. **In addition to carefulness, good hydration, good nutrition, and sleep— ALSO: SEEK TO BUILD UP A STRONG IMMUNE SYSTEM! I PERSONALLY TAKE ELDERBERRY, VITAMIN C, ZINC, GINGER, VITAMIN D, Quercetin, and a good multi-vitamin that includes fiber... And I have a PRESCRIPTION of Ivermectin... TO TAKE, if needed.**

DO YOUR OWN RESEARCH! BE PROACTIVE! BE PREVENTIVE!

4. LET each of us DO OUR PART IN personal hygiene. **[IF you use the restrooms— please wash your hands with SOAP; and use nearby SANITIZER.]**

5. **HERE IS AN EDUCATIONAL resource from The Association of American Physicians and Surgeons... FROM Doctors who successfully treat covid-19 patients! => <https://breggin.com/covid-19-home-treatment/>**

Peter McCullough, MD testifies to Texas Senate HHS Committee. BRIEF. EXCELLENT: → <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=QAHi3lX3oGM>

The PDF booklet: A Guide to Home-Based COVID Treatment can be downloaded ... **focus is on PREVENTION and early treatment:** COVID Treatment - Truth for Health Foundation <https://www.truthforhealth.org/patientguide/patient-treatment-guide/>