

THE “GOLDEN CHAIN” OF SAVING GRACE (Romans 8:29-30)

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²⁹ For those whom He foreknew, He also predestined to become conformed to the image of His Son, so that He would be the firstborn among many brethren,³⁰ and these whom He predestined, He also called; and these whom He called, He also justified; and these whom He justified, He also glorified. (Romans 8:29-30)

Introduction: From beginning to end – i.e., from eternity past, before God had created the heavens and the earth, to eternity future, where believers will forever be like Christ – God has done all that is necessary to bring about the certainty and fullness of our glorious salvation, through Christ.

- I. Divine Foreknowledge and our Salvation (“For those whom He foreknew . . .”)
Meaning of “foreknowledge” – to have a prior disposition to show love or favor toward; or more simply, to “fore-love” or “fore-favor.”
Cf. Amos 3:2; Eph 1:4-5; 2 Tim 1:9; and see other uses of “foreknow” in Rom 11:2 and 1 Pet 1:20

- II. Divine Predestination and our Salvation (“ . . . He also predestined to be conformed to the image of His Son . . .”)
Meaning of “predestination” – to establish the destiny of another (or others) in advance.
How does God show his favor to those to whom he has a prior disposition to favor? He predestines them to become like his Son! We never were designed by God to be like Adam; from before the foundation of the world, we have been designed to be like the raised and glorified Christ!
Cf. 1 Cor 2:7; Eph 1:5; 1 John 3:1-2

- III. Divine Calling (“ . . . and these whom He predestined, He also called . . .”)
Meaning of “calling” – to call to salvation in an effectual manner that achieves the purpose of the calling; i.e., this is a calling that accomplishes or effects the salvation of those so called. Note that this calling is extended to some, not all (those predestined), and it is a calling that effects the salvation of those called (they are justified).
Cf. Acts 2:39; Rom 9:24; 1 Cor 1:9, 22-24; 2 Pet 1:10

- IV. Divine Justification (“ . . . and these whom He called, He also justified . . .”)
Meaning of “justification” – to declare acquitted from the guilt of sin and righteous in God’s sight
Cf. Rom 3:28; 4:5; 5:1; Gal 2:16

- V. Divine Glorification (“ . . . and these whom He justified, He also glorified.”)
Meaning of “glorification” – to complete the process of sanctification, by which believers are conformed continually into the likeness of Christ until they are, in the end, made fully like Christ in body and soul.
Cf. 1 Cor 15:42-45, 52-57; Gal 4:19; Phil 3:20-21; Col 3:4; 1 Thess 5:23-24