



Romans 8:28-30 - <sup>28</sup> And we know that in all things God works for the good of those who love him, who have been called according to his purpose. <sup>29</sup> For those God foreknew he also predestined to be conformed to the image of his Son, that he might be the firstborn among many brothers and sisters. <sup>30</sup> And those he predestined, he also called; those he called, he also justified; those he justified, he also glorified.” (NIV)

C. S. Lewis, one of the most brilliant apologists says, “The moment you wake up each morning all your wishes and plans for the day rush at you like wild animals and the first job each day consists of shoving it all back in and instead listening to that other voice taking that other point of view letting that other, larger, stronger life come flowing in.” Here in this passage of scripture you can discover what God’s awesome plan is. There are three verses here and I want us to notice three things:

**I. GOD’S PROMISE**

God’s promise can be found in Romans 8:28. This promise only applies to those who truly love God. Can you honestly say you have a passionate love for God?” Do you remember when Jesus was asked what the greatest commandment of them all was? He said in Matthew 22:37-38, <sup>37</sup> Jesus replied: “Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind.’ <sup>38</sup> This is the first and greatest commandment (NIV).” So, only those who love God can claim this promise. Also, you have to be “called according to His purpose”.

**II. GOD’S PURPOSE**

Romans 8:29 - “For those God FOREKNEW he also PREDESTINED to be conformed to the image of his Son, that he might be the firstborn among many brothers and sisters (NIV).”

**1. He Chose Us**

First of all, GOD chose us. “FOREKNEW” = “proginóskó (Gk.)” It means God chooses us to be a part of His family. Before God created the world, even before you were conceived in your mother’s womb, God knew you, and He chose you to be a part of His family.

**2. He Changes Us**

Not only does God choose us, but He also changes us. God makes us into something better than we started out. That’s the meaning of the word “predestined.” We should be “conformed to the image of His Son.” God’s main goal in saving you is to make you like Jesus - in your character and in your body goodness, faithfulness, <sup>23</sup> gentleness and self-control...” (NIV) God is interested in making a whole family of people like Jesus. God is trying to make us more like Jesus. That is our destiny and God has already predetermined to make us that way. So that’s God’s Purpose: He chose us and He changes us.

**III. GOD’S PROCESS**

**1. He Calls Us**

Those God predestined, He called. Now you know what it means for somebody to call you. It means that somebody initiates something and you respond to a call. My question to you: Are you listening to God’s call?

*Let me give you several aspects of God’s call. In our Christian life, we can pretty much be summarized into these THREE CALLS:*

**“Come to Me”** - Matthew 11:28 - “Come to me, all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest (NIV).” I call this the Call of salvation. Maybe there are some of you here today who don’t have Jesus in your life. Without Jesus, you can’t rest in heaven when you die (John 3:16). In addition, you can’t experience peace and rest when you have challenges in life without Jesus. Many of you need to respond to God’s call of salvation today.

**“Follow Me”** - Matthew 4:19 - ““Come, follow me,” Jesus said, “and I will send you out to fish for people (NIV).”” Some of you in this room today have answered to God’s call of becoming a Christian. But you haven’t answered His call to serve Him. I call this God’s calling as the Call of Service. There are many of you who have been saved for years. It’s time to heed God’s calling to serve!

**“Remain in Me”** - In John 15:4 Jesus said, “Remain in me, as I also remain in you. No branch can bear fruit by itself; it must remain in the vine. Neither can you bear fruit unless you remain in me (NIV).” This means we are called to surrender to the power of the Holy Spirit in your life.

I want to use the term Call of Surrender for this calling. There are some of you here who are serving God but you are trying to serve Him in your own flesh. You surrender to the power of the Holy Spirit and you abide in the vine who is Christ.

**2. He Claims Us**

He claims us. He calls us then He claims us. Look at Romans 8:30b, “...those he called, he also JUSTIFIED... (NIV)” The word justified is a good old Bible word and every time you read it you need to substitute this phrase. The word JUSTIFIED means God claimed you as without sin because of Jesus in you as if you’d never sinned! The word JUSTIFICATION is a legal term that means to be declared RIGHT, INNOCENT, or GUILTLESS. <sup>2</sup> Corinthians 5:21, “God made Him (JESUS) who had no sin to be sin for us, so that in Him we might become the righteousness of God (NIV).”

**3. He Completes Us**

Romans 8:30c - “...those he justified, he also GLORIFIED (NIV).” I want you to look at Romans 8:30. It’s in the past tense. It says that we are CALLED, JUSTIFIED, GLORIFIED. God is not bound by time and space. Therefore, it’s a done deal, it’s a finished act, it’s as good as happened. Glorified means one day our bodies are going to be changed to be like Jesus.

Right now, God’s trying to change our character. One day when we are glorified, our bodies will change. Philippians 3:20-21, <sup>20</sup> But our citizenship is in heaven. And we eagerly await a Savior from there, the Lord Jesus Christ, <sup>21</sup> who, by the power that enables him to bring everything under his control, will transform our lowly bodies so that they will be like his glorious body.” (NIV)



- 1.) What are the areas of your life you consider as the greatest work in progress?
  - 2.) How did the lesson today motivated you to reach your goal?
  - 3.) What can you say about God’s awesome plan?
- Pray for each other in your group.**