

### (b) Predestined

*Paul is here thinking not only of their final glorification but of their growing conformity to Christ here and now in suffering and in obedience.” Cranfield*

- Sees the final transformation of our body (Phil. 3:21) and our progressive spiritual growth (2 Cor. 3:18).
- Goal of predestination is Christ’s glory – v. 29b

*“...it is among many brethren that his preeminence appears. [and] carries with it the eminence that belongs to the children of God” ~ John Murray*

### (c) Called

- This is the inward call of the Gospel that awakens our dead hearts to respond to the Gospel.
- This must be so, since not all respond to God’s outward call, yet all who are “called” are justified and ultimately glorified.

### (d) Justified

- Paul’s great theme of chapters 1-4, and touched on in chapter 5:1, 9

### (e) Glorified

- This is a future reality described in a past sense since this is “as good as done” for all God’s elect.

Paul has traced *“the divine plan of salvation from its fount in the love of God to its consummation in the glorification of the sons of God.” J. Murray*

## Schedule

- Feb 9 – Conclusion of Romans 8

## Previous Handouts

- Online: <https://www.theheightschurchmn.org/adult-sunday-school>

## Credits

- Main sources for outline and shared quotes are:
  - *Epistle to The Romans (NICNT)* by Douglas Moo [Eerdmans, 1996]
  - *Romans (IVPNTC)* by Grant Osborne [IVP, 2004]
  - *The Epistle to the Romans*, by John Murray [Westminster, 2022]
  - *Romans (St. Andrew’s Expositional Commentary)* by R.C. Sproul [Crossway, 2009]

## III. The Assurance Provided by the Gospel: The Hope of Salvation (5:1-8:39)

### D. Assurance of Eternal Life in the Spirit (8:1-30)

#### 1. New Life in the Spirit (8:1-17)

#### 2. New Hope of Glory in the Spirit (8:18-30)

a) **The Theme:** *Suffering leads to glory.* (8:17b-18)

b) **The Groaning of Creation:** *The glory is so great that all of creation groans in longing for it.* (8:19-22)

(1) **Why creation waits with eager longing (8:19-20).**

(2) **Nature of the hope and its relation to sons of God (8:21-22).**

- Liberation/renewal is coming.
- Destiny of God’s children is to judge/subdue the created order.
- Having to wait is tied to groaning (see also 2 Cor. 5:2, 4)
- This groaning is not death throes, but birth pangs.

c) **The Groaning of Christian:** *Christians groan in longing for this glory to be revealed.* (8:23-25)

- We share groaning and frustration (v. 19, v. 23b, v. 26a)
- This frustration also points back to our struggles with sin (ch. 7)
- Rather than grumbling, we express our frustrations in prayer (“entreaties” to God) – Ps. 38:9; 1 Cor. 16:22; Rev. 22:20; Mt. 6:10.
- We await the ultimate realization of our adoption as God’s sons.
- Our possession (“firstfruits”) of the Spirit makes us 1) realize what glory awaits us, and 2) long for more of what the Spirit represents.
- Our redemption is not complete until our body is resurrected.
- In this hope we were saved – past reality yet future expectation.
- Our hope in the coming realities of a new heaven and new earth needs, and brings out from us, a waiting with patience.

d) **The Groaning of the Spirit:** *The Spirit of God groans in prayer that this glory be revealed.* (8:26-27)

- Likewise – in the same way the Spirit gives us hope that sustains, so also the Spirit “helps us in our weakness.”
- Our weakness is our “creatureliness” and this leaves us vulnerable in respect to prayer:
  - (1) We do not know what to pray for.
  - (2) We do not know what God’s will is with respect to what we pray for.

*“Our failure to know God’s will and... to petition God specifically and assuredly is met by God’s Spirit, who himself expresses to God those intercessory petitions that perfectly match the will of God.” ~ Douglas Moo*

- The Spirit’s groaning is not in our words or groans but is His own emotional expression. He prays for us – with deep and wordless groanings.
  - Groans are an expression of God’s deep love & concern for us.
  - God searches hearts – so he knows our weakness and need.
  - The Spirit overcomes this weakness by his prayer for us – and his perfect knowledge of God’s will.

Progression of Rom. 8:26-28:

- ➔ In weakness & suffering, we struggle in our prayers.
- ➔ The Spirit, too, groans with us and intercedes on our behalf.
- ➔ God knows our hearts and hears our prayer & the Spirit’s voice.
- ➔ In response, God works all things together for our ultimate good.

*“The sovereignty of God responding to the Spirit’s cry on our behalf turns everything around for the best.” ~ Grant Osborne*

**e) Conclusion:** *God works all things together to bring about his purpose for us: perfect conformity to the glory of Christ. (8:28-30)*

**(1) Promise – “All Things Work Together for Good”**

**(a) Content of the promise**

- “Good” – is not necessarily in this life (already/not yet reality)
  - Not always what we want but what is best for us.
  - God even overturns evil actions of others, or our own sins – Gen. 50:20 - Joseph’s saying “God meant it for good”.

*“Not all things are good.... But ...all things are working together for good; that is, the ultimate purpose is a good purpose... In every tragedy we experience, God is working with it, molding it and shaping it, for our eternal blessedness.” ~ R.C. Sproul*

- “All things” – *“Not one detail works ultimately for evil to the people of God; in the end only good will be their lot.” - J. Murray.*

**(b) Recipients of the promise**

- “For those who love God”

*“...love to God is both the most elementary and the highest mark of being in the favour of God.” ~ John Murray*

- “For those who are called”
  - This is the effectual call, *“those who have been summoned not only outwardly but also inwardly by the Spirit” - R.C. Sproul.*

**(2) Purpose- “According to His Purpose”**

*“[It] is the sovereign guidance of God that is presumed as the undergirding and directing force behind all the events of life.” ~ Douglas Moo*

- This is God’s eternal purpose of mankind’s redemption: 2 Tim. 1:9
- (3) Plan – The Golden Chain of Salvation**
- “For” starts these two verses and shows they are “a continued confirmation” of why vs. 28 will prove true. God has a plan to *“realize in us ‘the hope of glory.’” D. Moo*
- “Golden Chain” refers to the five aspects of salvation that are inseparably bound together
- The repetition of “these” shows that all of one group is linked to the next term. All who are justified are glorified, so all who are predestined are called, etc.

*“Once we are justified, can we lose our salvation? We cannot if the Golden Chain is true.... It is not a rusty chain, but one made of the precious truth of the gospel.” R.C. Sproul*

**(a) Foreknown**

- The object of the verb is “whom” – people are what is known.
- Known before – does not lose the richness of “knowledge” in the Biblical sense. Two aspects of knowledge:
  - Cognition/intellectual awareness – *Rom. 1: 21 world knew God*
  - Personal, spiritual or redemptive knowledge – *1 Cor. 1:21 world did not know God*

*“Many times in Scripture ‘know’ has a pregnant meaning which goes beyond that of mere cognition. It is used in a sense practically synonymous with ‘love’, to set regard upon, to know with peculiar interest, delight, affection, and action (cf. Amos 3:2; Hosea 13:5; Matt. 7:23).” ~ J. Murray*

- Rom. 11:2 and 1 Pet. 1:20 use the same Greek terms as 8:29 and clearly refer to a choosing not just knowing something will happen.

*“It is not the foresight of difference but the foreknowledge that makes difference to exist... It is sovereign distinguishing love.” John Murray*