

NORTHEAST HOUSTON COMMUNITY CHURCH
Sermon: All Things for our Good and Predestination, Part 3
Topic: According to His Purpose
Scripture Text: Romans 8:28–30
6/16/2019

Romans 8:28–30 (NKJV) 28 And we know that all things work together for good to those who love God, to those who are the called according to His purpose. 29 For whom He foreknew, He also predestined to be conformed to the image of His Son, that He might be the firstborn among many brethren. 30 Moreover whom He predestined, these He also called; whom He called, these He also justified; and whom He justified, these He also glorified.

Let's continue trying to exegesis this passage. First question we should ask is:

1. Who is the writer or speaker? We know that the writer is Paul written about 56 A.D. *Romans 1:1*
2. To whom is he speaking or writing? – To the Church in Rome *Romans 1:7*
3. Does v28 apply to all things, including evil? I think I prefers the NLT version.
4. *Romans 8:28 (NLT)* ²⁸ **And we know that God causes everything to work together for the good** of those who love God and are called according to his purpose for them.
5. Does v28 apply to all people – no, only **to those who are the called**. (Have been called NIV), (are called ESV)
Only six word but it opens up a topic of much debate, that is about the “Doctrine of Election.”
6. **Who are “the called”?** Those in the church at Rome that are called by God to be saints.
Romans 1:7 (NKJV) 7 To all who are in Rome, beloved of God, called to be saints: ...
Saints – Holy ones (set aside) people of God.

I tried to answer the question concerning those that are not in the number of “the called”. The question arises, “what about those He did not call or predestine to be saved? Are all others to be predestined to hell? Our sensibilities want to tell us that it seems unfair to save some and not others when He could save everyone.

Those that are the called to be predestined to salvation is based solely on the sovereignty of God. God is sovereign. We must understand His sovereignty.

The number one doctrine of our faith is that doctrine that **God is God**. God is sovereign, God is righteous and just.

God in His sovereignty can make men for honor or dishonor. (*Romans 9:14–15*)

I was not real comfortable last week after the message for I suspected that the message saying that God chooses some people for salvation and others for destruction may have left you wondering and unsure.

One commentary wrote: “If divine grace is bestowed on some, and withheld from others; especially if the sins and transgressions of men are so under the control of the Almighty, that they but serve His purposes, how is it that such blame and censure attaches to the sinner, and that such dreadful judgments are denounced against him?”

<https://www.studylight.org/commentary/romans/9-19.html>

Paul anticipates this question.

Romans 9:19 (NKJV) 19 You will say to me then, “Why does He still find fault? For who has resisted His will?”

His reply to the perceived question is:

Romans 9:22–24 (NKJV) 22 What if God, wanting to show His wrath and to make His power known, endured with much longsuffering the vessels of wrath prepared for destruction, 23 and that He might make known the riches of His glory on the vessels of mercy, which He had prepared beforehand for glory, 24 even us whom He called, not of the Jews only, but also of the Gentiles?

This verse seems to say that God, in order to show His might created “vessels of wrath prepared for destruction. At first that seems unfair. It that is the case how can He find fault in them?

I like the way the NLT says it.

Romans 9:19 (NLT) ¹⁹ Well then, you might say, “Why does God blame people for not responding? Haven’t they simply done what he makes them do?”

I don’t know all the answers but, I don’t overlook the words “endured with long suffering” tells me that the vessels of wrath choose to be so and God suffered their actions with patience not wanting to destroy them but their actions destined them for destructions.

2 Peter 3:9 (NKJV) 9 The Lord is not slack concerning His promise, as some count slackness, but is longsuffering toward us, not willing that any should perish but that all should come to repentance.

Just as those that do not believe today are destined for destruction.

In theology there is a branch called Apologetics.

Apologetics - reasoned arguments or writings in justification of something, typically a theory or religious doctrine

Apology - something that is said or written to defend something that other people criticize:

I started preparing for this sermon to present some apologies but the more I studied the stronger my first thought grew and that is that God is sovereign and can and has the right to do whatever He wants to do. He does so without losing any of His righteousness. We as His workmanship have no say in the matter nor any standing to question it.

Therefore, I am trusting that the Holy Spirit will give me more light as we continue on for there is no doubt we will touch on some related topics as we go.

We all must choose if we are to come to be saved through Christ that includes the Elect for salvation, All sinners are predestined for destructions if they do not come to Christ for salvation

Romans 3:23 (NKJV) 23 for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God,

Romans 6:23 (NKJV) 23 For the wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.

These verses apply to everyone.

WE become among the chosen when we come to Christ. Everyone born into the world has received enough light to come to God.

Romans 1:20 (NKJV) 20 For since the creation of the world His invisible attributes are clearly seen, being understood by the things that are made, even His eternal power and Godhead, so that they are without excuse,

Everyone has to make the choice to come to God through Jesus Christ including the elect or chosen ones. *Romans 10:9–13 (NKJV)* 9 *that if you confess with your mouth the Lord Jesus and believe in your heart that God has raised Him from the dead, you will be saved. 10 For with the heart one believes unto righteousness, and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation.*

When the disciples of Christ fulfill the great commission, all those that hear it will exercise their free will to believe it or reject it. This includes those of the elect for salvation who will be more receptive to it. It includes those that are chosen for destruction and those that fall into neither camp.

Mark 16:15–16 (NKJV) 15 *And He said to them, “Go into all the world and preach the gospel to every creature. 16 He who believes and is baptized will be saved; but he who does not believe will be condemned.*

I know this can be a little confusing. Let me try to give an example. Abraham was chosen to be the father of many nations. Among those nations were the Israelites'. The Israelites were chosen t be God’s representation to the world of the unchosen to be God’s people.

The savior was predestined to come through the nation of Israel through the line of David.

Israel, the children of Abraham were a special people but those that are not of Abraham can be grafted into the sed of Abraham thereby in line for the promises made to Abraham.

Romans 11:17–18 (NLT) 17 *But some of these branches from Abraham’s tree—some of the people of Israel— have been broken off. And you Gentiles, who were branches from a wild olive tree, have been grafted in. So now you also receive the blessing God has promised Abraham and his children, sharing in the rich nourishment from the root of God’s special olive tree. 18 But you must not brag about being grafted in to replace the branches that were broken off. You are just a branch, not the root.*

I believe that all men and women have the opportunity to be counted among the chosen and elect through belief in Jesus Christ.

Some people are exposed to more light than others. Some people are predisposed to accept the call and there are others that reject Christ.

What is “the light?” – the way to salvation out of darkness.

- All men receive light to salvation
- Jesus is that light, and we are children of light

John 1:6–9 (NKJV) 6 *There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. 7 This man came for a witness, to bear witness of the Light, that all through him might believe. 8 He was not that Light, but was sent to bear witness of that Light. 9 **That was the true Light which gives light to every man coming into the world.***

The first step to salvation is to repent. Repentance is necessary for the forgiveness of sins.

Luke 13:3 (NKJV) 3 *I tell you, no; **but unless you repent** you will all likewise perish.*

Acts 3:19 (NKJV) 19 *Repent therefore and be converted, **that your sins may be blotted out,** so that times of refreshing may come from the presence of the Lord,*

V28 the called according to His purpose

Question: Why are some called/elected and others not? They were called because God has a purpose for them.

God chose Israel, to the exclusion of other nations through Abram, for a special purpose before they were even a nation.

*Genesis 12:3 (NKJV) 3 I will bless those who bless you, And I will curse him who curses you; **And in you all the families of the earth shall be blessed.***

The elected vessels of honor were to be a light to those that were not chosen from the beginning.

Their mission was to point other to the one true God. There were people that were not of Israel that benefited from joining Israel coming out of slavery. People from those other nations could share in the blessings given to Israel.

2 Chronicles 2:17 (NKJV) 17 Then Solomon numbered all the aliens who were in the land of Israel, after the census in which David his father had numbered them; and there were found to be one hundred and fifty-three thousand six hundred.

What does it mean “according to His purpose?”

God has a reason and or purpose for everything He does. But, His purpose is not always the same for everyone. We have already discussed why his purpose for enduring for destruction may have been to demonstrate His glory, His love and His power. (*Romans 9:22–24*)

Let me point to just a few Purposes for God’s calling:

- Noah – To build an ark to save animals and his family and mankind. (*Genesis 6:18*)
- Abram – To be become a great nation from which the world will be blessed. (*Genesis 12:3*)
- Moses - To deliver the people of Israel out of Egypt and bring them into the good land that they may serve God, (
- Saul – to be the first king of Israel (*1 Samuel 9:16*)
- Samson – To begin to deliver Israel from the Philistines. (*Judges 13:5*)
- David – to replace Saul as king of Israel (*1 Samuel 16:1*)
- John the Baptist – Prepare the way of the Lord, a forerunner. (*Luke 1:13–17*)
- The disciples/Apostles – To be a witness to Christ (*Acts 5:32, Acts 1:8*) and to fulfill the great commission. (*Matt 28:19-20*)
- New Testament Believers – To be children of the light of Christ. (*Ephesians 5:8*), Witnesses for Christ, Fulfill the great commission and to be conformed to the image of Christ (*Romans 8:29*).

There are many other purposes that God may have had for men and women. We do not know them all for who can know all of the mind of God.

Romans 11:33–34 (NKJV) 33 Oh, the depth of the riches both of the wisdom and knowledge of God! How unsearchable are His judgments and His ways past finding out! 34 “For who has known the mind of the Lord? Or who has become His counselor?”

I cannot counsel God nor can I question Him for the way I think is not the way He thinks nor are His ways not my ways.

Isaiah 55:8–9 (NKJV) 8 “For My thoughts are not your thoughts, Nor are your ways My ways,” says the Lord. 9 “For as the heavens are higher than the earth, So are My ways higher than your ways, And My thoughts than your thoughts.

Message Scriptures: **Romans 8:28–30**, *Romans 1:7, Romans 9:14–15, Romans 9:19, Romans 9:22–24, Romans 6:23 Romans 3:23, Romans 10:9–13, Mark 16:15–16, John 1:6–9, Luke 13:3, Acts 3:19, Genesis 12:3,*

2 Chronicles 2:17, Romans 9:22–24, Genesis 6:18, Genesis 12:3, 1 Samuel 9:16, Judges 13:5, 1 Samuel 16:1, Luke 1:13–17, Acts 5:32, Acts 1:8, Matt 28:19-20, Ephesians 5:8, Romans 8:29, Romans 11:33–34, Isaiah 55:8–9.
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