

The Golden Chain of Salvation/the Ordo Salutis

Sermon 10 in the Doctrines of Grace Series

Romans 8:29-30

I. The Golden Chain of Salvation Romans 8:29-30

Foreknow-Predestinate-call-justified-glorified

v. 29 – shows the salvation of the elect – before time -- in the eternal purpose as it exists and existed in the mind of God.

That is foreknowledge and predestination.

v. 30 shows the salvation of the elect as it takes place in our individual lives.

■ Notice – all the verbs are translated into English in the past tense.

■ In the Greek – they are in the aorist – and the most common usage of the aorist is a one-time completed action.

A. The Context

1. The Remote Context

8:1 – Chapter 8 is a “Christian” chapter.

It is the fact that there is NOW no condemnation for those in Christ.

The first 7 chapters deal with the reality of justification by faith alone.

v. 15-17

The themes of liberty, redemption, and ministry of the Spirit.

2. The Immediate Context **v. 28 and v. 31.**

These verses are “bookends” to the golden chain of salvation.

v. 31-39 bring great comfort to the believer and shows God will complete the work that He has begun.

v. 28 brings comfort to the believer throughout their life.

The conclusion is vital -- “the called – according to His purpose”.

■ He initiated salvation.

■ He purposed what our lives would be.

■ He even purposed what our eventual end of life would be.

3. Some Observations:

1) The Greek words for both foreknowledge and predestination have the Greek prefix “pro” (before). These two verbs together are joined in thought to form the purpose of God from before the foundation of the world, given in v. 28, while the last three are from the creation of the world

2) Foreknowledge precedes predestination.

Not in real time – as there is no time relevance before Genesis 1:1 or with the eternal counsels of God – but we see God’s distinguishing love in foreknowledge. Foreknowledge doesn’t tell us the Christian’s destiny. Predestined tells us this vital information – so the order is important for us.

3) His divine purpose, as seen in foreknowledge and predestination preceded the Christians “call”.

4) Calling comes before justification and justification before glorification – which gives us a rationale for the ordo salutis.

4. Moo: “This (foreknowledge) does not say God knew anything about us but **that He knew us.**” (to enter into relationship with before or choose or determine before) “Moreover, it is only **some individuals** that are foreknown”. This is distinguishing love according to His purpose”. (v. 28)

II. The Ordo Salutis (Order of Salvation)

1. Election (God’s choice before time)
2. Effectual Calling/Regeneration
3. Conversion (faith and repentance)
4. Justification (God’s declaration)
5. Adoption (Membership into God’s family)
6. Sanctification
7. Perseverance/Preservation
8. Glorification (Our final perfection)

From Wayne Grudem’s Systematic Theology

God’s work before time -- Predestination

The Divine work in time -- Effectual Calling -- Regeneration

The human response -- Repentance unto life – Faith in Jesus Christ

The Divine work – Justification - Definitive Sanctification - Adoption

The Christian life -- Progressive Sanctification – Perseverance in the Faith

(Both are accomplished by the work of the Holy Spirit in us.)

The ultimate Divine action -- Glorification