

BIBLE DISCUSSION GROUP STUDY QUESTIONS

In preparation for Sunday, July 7, 2013

Passage: Romans 8:28-30

Memory Passage: Romans 8:28-30

DAY 1 – ASK FOR INSIGHT

READ THE PASSAGE

(a) **Read Romans 8:28-30.** We will examine & dissect this text next week, but this week we will take a look at the 5 doctrines in what theologians have called the “Golden Chain of Salvation” found in Rom. 8:28-30: “those whom he foreknew he also predestined, and those whom he predestined he also called, and those whom he called he also justified, and those whom he justified he also glorified.” I will give you several verses to examine each day, a set of questions to answer as you read, and some application/discussion questions for your consideration in preparation for your Sunday school discussion. We will not examine every Scripture supporting each doctrine, nor will the questions exhaust your thinking about every doctrine. Some of this will be a review from Romans 1-8, but some will not. **NOTE TO SUNDAY SCHOOL LEADERS:** There are good questions for group discussion found in both the “Questions” and “Application/Discussion” sections, so choose the questions from either place that will stimulate your group to both understand and apply each doctrine.

(b) **Read Gen 18:19 (the word translated “chosen” in the ESV is “known” in the Hebrew), Jer. 1:5, Amos 3:1-2, Acts 2:22-23, Rom. 8:28-30, 11:2, & 1 Pet. 1:2, 20.** The doctrine of *foreknowledge*. Questions: (1) When used of God, how would you define “foreknowledge?” (2) What/who was foreknown by God? (3) What is God’s attitude toward those whom He foreknew? (4) What does God’s foreknowledge of His people reveal about His character?

(c) **Application/Discussion:** (1) Why is the doctrine of foreknowledge important in the Golden Chain of Rom. 8:28-30? (2) How would you answer this question: “Doesn’t God’s foreknowledge of believers just mean that He looked through the corridors of time to see who would, of their own volition, choose Him, and then set His affections on them because of their future choice?” (3) What emotions should be stirred by the fact that God foreknew you prior to the foundation of the world? (4) Could God have saved us without having this intimate foreknowledge of us?

(d) *Family:* There will not be specific family questions for this week. For each night, choose a couple of passages to explore for each doctrine, come up with a definition for each one, and then use one of the application questions to start a discussion.

DAY 2 – ASK FOR INSIGHT

READ THE PASSAGE

(a) **Read Acts 4:28, Rom. 8:28-30, 9:11-13, 11:7, 1 Cor. 2:7, Eph. 1:4-6, 11, 1 Thess. 1:4-5, 2 Thess. 2:13, & 1 Pet. 1:1, 2:9-10.** The doctrine of *predestination/election*. The word in Rom. 8 is “predestination,” under which comes the idea of “election” & “choosing” so we will look briefly at all 3 ideas. Questions: (1) Write a definition of “predestination.” (2) What does it mean for God to “elect” someone, and to what has He elected him or her? (3) When and for what reason did God predestine anyone? (4) What does God’s will have to do with His predestining? (5) Must everything that God predestines come to pass? Why or why not?

(b) **Application/Discussion:** (1) Why is the doctrine of predestination important in the Golden Chain of Rom. 8:28-30? (2) How are the doctrines of predestination and foreknowledge related/connect? (3) How would you counsel the person who said: “I reject this doctrine because it makes those who are saved nothing but mindless robots! God said we are to choose Him if we want to live, and if we don’t choose Him we will die (Deut. 30:19)!” (4) For what reason/s did God predestine some to salvation? (5) In what ways does the doctrine of God’s sovereign election encourage you as a believer?

DAY 3 – ASK FOR INSIGHT

READ THE PASSAGE

(a) **Read Rom. 1:1-7, 8:28-30, 1 Cor. 1:9, Eph. 1:18, 4:4, 2 Thess. 2:14, 1 Tim. 6:12, 1 Pet. 2:9, 5:10, & 2 Pet. 1:3.** The doctrine of *inward/effectual calling*. One type of “calling” in Scripture refers to the outward preaching of the gospel in which all men & women are called to repent and believe on Jesus in order to be saved. We see this modeled/assumed in passages such as Matt. 11:28-30, Acts 2:38, 3:29, Rom. 10:8-17, Rev. 22:17 et al. Another type of “calling” found in Scripture is the internal/effectual call. This is the call found in Rom. 8:28-30 and upon which our study today will focus. Questions: (1) To what are men & women called? (2) Who is doing the calling? (3) What is the difference between the external call of the gospel being preached to all men & women and the internal call made by God to the heart? (4) What are the implications of effectual calling for a believer as found in the contexts of these passages? (5) Can God’s internal call be ignored or rejected? Why/why not?

(b) **Application/Discussion:** (1) Why is the doctrine of effectual calling important in the Golden Chain of Rom. 8:28-30? (2) Why is this type of calling termed “effectual?” (3) What are some of the dangers we face if we do not realize the difference between the internal & external calls taught in Scripture? (4) How does the doctrine of effectual calling impact our evangelism?

DAY 4 – ASK FOR INSIGHT

READ THE PASSAGE

(a) **Read Rom. 3:19-31, 4:4-5, 5:1, 8:28-34, & 10:4-10.** The doctrine of *justification*. We will review what we have already learned about this doctrine from Romans. Questions: (1) Write a definition of justification. (2) How are men & women

justified? (3) What role does justification play in Paul's teaching in the first 4 chapters of Romans? In chapters 5-8? (4) What are the results for someone who hopes to be justified in a way other than what Paul has taught? (5) What is propitiation and what role does it play in the doctrine of justification?

(b) **Application/Discussion:** (1) Why is the doctrine of justification important in the Golden Chain of Rom. 8:28-30? (2) What is the difference between justification and sanctification, and why is this distinction important for living the Christian life? (3) Upon what basis does God justify the ungodly, and how does He maintain His holy character in the process? (4) How does our view of the doctrine of justification affect our evangelism? Our pursuit of holiness? Our obedience?

DAY 5 – ASK FOR INSIGHT

READ THE PASSAGE

(a) **Read John 6:39-40, Rom. 8:17-19, 23, 1 Cor. 15:12-58, 1 Thess. 4:13-18.** The doctrine of *glorification*. Questions: (1) What does it mean for a believer to be glorified? (2) When does this glorification happen? (3) Upon what basis can we be sure of our future glorification? (4) How is the resurrection body different from the earthly body?

(b) **Application/Discussion:** (1) Why is the doctrine of glorification important in the Golden Chain of Rom. 8:28-30? (2) How does our belief in the doctrine of glorification separate believers from non-believers? (3) Why does the doctrine of glorification inspire hope in a believer's life? (4) How does the sure hope of future glorification affect our current earthly life? (5) Why is glorification necessary for us to be completely saved?

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Doctrines in the Golden Chain

“For those whom he *foreknew* he also *predestined* . . . and those whom he *predestined* he also *called*, and those whom he *called* he also *justified*, and those whom he *justified* he also *glorified*.”