

Monday, September 25, 2023 ▫ Read Romans 8:28–30

Questions from the Scripture text: Which things do we know work together for good (v28)? To whom do they work together for good? What did God also do to those whom He foreknew (29a)? To what did He predestine them (29b)? For what reason (29c)? What did He do for those whom He predestined (30a)? What did He do for those whom He called (30b)? What did He do for those whom He justified (30c)?

What does God know about the mind with which the Spirit intercedes for the saints? Romans 8:28–30 looks forward to the midweek sermon. In these three verses of Holy Scripture, the Holy Spirit teaches us that **the Spirit intercedes for the saints according to God's plan to glorify them in and with His Son.**

We know, v28. All things working together for good isn't even the main idea of v28. The main idea is that *we know*. How do we know? We know that the Spirit helps us to pray for it (v26a), because He Himself prays for it (v26b), because He Himself has purposed it (v27). What evidence is there that He purposed it? Because He *called us* according to that purpose (v28c).

That's the only way that sinners such as we are could ever come to love Him (v28b). Here the love of God summarizes the keeping of the whole law (cf. Mt 22:37–40). The one who was a slave under sin is now a lover of God? How did THAT happen?! God purposed it. God called him. God turned him into a lover of God.

God foreknew, v29a. Why would God do this for someone who was going to be such a sinner? God did foreknow that we would be sinners. But that's not the foreknowing that this verse is talking about. Some have thought that it's talking about God foreknowing that we would choose Him, but that's a rubbish idea. Apart from converting grace there would only be sin. But this is not foreknowing *about* a person; this is foreknowing *the person himself*. Predestination unto glory is the consequence of God determining to have an eternal relationship with a person.

God knows, v29b–30. What is the mind of the Spirit as He prays for us in v27? It is the mind that belongs to God from all eternity. The mind that treasures the glory of the Son. The mind that predestined those whom God foreknow to be conformed to that glory (v29b). The mind that has shaped the history of every foreknown saint from predestination, through calling, to justification (v30). And this glorification, that was determined from all eternity, is so sure to come (and to last into all eternity) that the apostle puts it in the past tense. For, it was determined in the knowledge of God—determined in that knowledge which is not a reactive knowledge, but the knowledge that has decreed whatsoever comes to pass (cf. Eph 1:11).

The saint can know that all things are working together for his good, because the way that he came to be a lover of God is because God has determined to work all things together for that saint's glory with Jesus Christ.

What's the only way a sinner like you can become a lover of God? When would that have been determined? What had God unstoppably planned to do to such as love God? Why did He predestine them to that?

Sample prayer: Lord, thank You for loving us and planning a relationship with us from all eternity. Grant unto us to know the fellowship of Your Spirit, who works in us and prays for us, that we may be sure that all things are working together for our good—working together to conform us to Christ, which we ask in His Name, AMEN!

Suggested songs: ARP98 “O Sing a New Song to the LORD” or TPH469 “Who Are These Like Stars Appearing”

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(The following is a machine-generated transcription. PLEASE BE AWARE of—and patient with—transcribing errors. If there is something confusing or obviously erroneous, you are invited to listen to the audio recording via hopewellarp.org)

Romans chapter 8, verse 28 through 30. These are God's words, And we know that all things work together for good. To those who love god. To those who are the cult according to his purpose. For whom he foreign you. He also predestined to be conformed. To the image of his son.

That he might be the firstborn among many brethren. Moreover, whom he predestined. Do you see also called? And he called, These, he also justified. And whom he justified. These, he also glorified So, the main point of verse 28, That's what we know. And this corresponds, what we heard in verse 27 about what god knows god knows.

God, who is the one who searches the hearts and he knows what the mind of the spiritus. And so, there's this. Um, instruction in verse 26 and 27. That the spirit. Is interceding force, he makes intercession for us and god knows we don't know what to pray for as we ought but the spirit nodes what to pray for and the spirit knows how he ought to pray for it and god knows what the spirit is praying for.

So what is it that the spirit knows to pray for and what is it that god knows and understands. As the spirit prays for us. And that is, The fullness of The working of all things together for good. So, we know that. All things work together for good. The spirit knows what all those things are.

And the spirit knows how to work them all together and the spirit knows. The good. For which He is working them all together. And so we begin with what we know. And we know, That. That all things work. Together. For good. How do we know that all things work together for good for us?

Um, or specifically for those who love God. And because someone who loves god is exactly the opposite of what we were in Adam in the first Adam. The. Summary of the law is love the lord. Your god with all your heart, soulmate and strength and love your neighbor as yourself.

And in fact, you do not love your neighbor. Unless, You love the lord, your god first. There's no such thing as second. Uh, table of the law. Keeping properly understood. Apart from keeping, the first table of the law. And indeed. If you love god at all, you must love him with all your hearts.

So mind and strength. That is not properly, loving god, unless you love god as god. And so, this really is a shorthand, a summary for the whole of righteousness, the whole of godliness, those who love God. But then this is uh, marvelous thing. How can any of us be those who?

Love god. Especially since just a chapter ago, we were talking about how even after Um, Even after we have been made to delight in the law of god and our inner

being, we still have that remaining sinfulness within us and before We came to. Delight in the law of governor.

In our inner being before we were made alive together with christ. Having been crucified with him. We did not love god at all. I'm sorry. I was it that we could come to love god. The answer is. Only by god's calling us. Only by gods effectually. By his word.

Addressing us. And by his spirits, use of his word, giving us spiritual resurrection bringing us to life. And this calling, of course, then could not have come according to our purpose. Someone has to purpose it. Who is the one who it's god. Who purposes it? Of course. And so, if god, Purposed.

To call us. So that we would be given these new natures so that we would be made lovers of god in part. Then we know that the intention Is to be, is to make us. Lovers of god in full and that is What the good to which all things work together.

This is not all things work together for us to Avoid a car accident, they're all things work together for us. Uh, to Have a Um, Coincidental. Meeting with somebody that has. Significant ramifications for our future in this world. This is all things work together. For us to become. Lovers of god in full.

And so that's that's what we know. And why are we going to become lovers of god and full? Because of getting a verse 29, The thing that started all of this from the Predestined to the glorified and the rest of the passage, the things started all of it was god for knowing us, Now, this is not god knowing about us.

This is god, knowing Us. That god four knows all things about us. That's true. He knows all those things in advance. Um, Which, by the way, is, is not and cannot be. That god knew that we would choose him. And so he Uh, he destined to call those who would choose him.

That's, A bunch of spiritual and theological rubbish. Because god knows about us ahead of time. What does he know about us? Well, Even those whom he brings to faith, our faith is imperfect. The perfection of faith. Is not in how it believes, it's in whom it believes. It's belief in a perfect savior, not a perfect faith.

So what does he know about our faith? He knows about our faith that it's weak and it has selfishness in it and it has all of these misunderstandings. In it, and And it is an unworthy faith and and our faith deserves hell. Or. The sin that is mixed in with our faith.

Deserves, how? What does god know about us? He knows about us that even after we believe we are going to sin. So constantly That it, it drives us to say with the apostle who will save me from the body of this death. So they're all sorts of the god.

No, not just all sorts of things. God. Knows everything about us in advance, but that is not What verse 29 is talking about, it's talking about god knowing us. It's god deciding. To have a relationship. With us. God, loving us. And, God. Determining that he is going to make us.

Lovers of himself. This is the great glory of the lord jesus that he is god. And that he loves god rightly. And when we are glorified together with him, We are not made god. We do not get that part of the glory. What part of the glory. Do we get?

That we love god, rightly. That we are conformed. We are made to be like his son. That he would be the firstborn. Among. Many brethren. And so, Um, The reason that god, Call. And regenerate. And save. Someone who is such a sinner as each of us. Were, and are Is because of his determination.

To know us. That he would know us that we would know him. That he would be our god and we would be his people. That we would be able to say i am My beloveds. And my beloved is mine. That is the intention. From all eternity, that is even behind.

The predestination. That is intention to bring us. Into. Um,

Untarnished unblemished. Loving relationship. With god himself. So, we know that all things are working together for good, because Um, god was determined to know us. And to make us knowers of him. And since he was determined to do that, he predestined us to what Did he predestin us to be called?

Well, yes, he did because those whom he predestined he called, and so, he predestined us to be. To hear the word. Then the power of his spirit and have his spirit, make us alive and come to him through faith calling Calls to us a spirit calls to us and brings us.

Uh, to him. Through faith. He did predestin that. Um, did he predestin us to be justified? Yes, he predestined us. By that faith in the lord, jesus christ to be united to him. To have all our sin. Put away by the cross. The lord jesus.

To have all our sin put away by the cross of the lord. Jesus christ have no guilt at all. No condemnation. At all from god. Anymore. Because the wrath of god has been fully satisfied. At the cross. To have all of jesus and obedience and not just his obedient acts.

But even his obedient character. Countered for us and obedience. That is rendered as a human being But, That is of a divine person. So, they're not only was he who made no sin, he who knew no sin made to be sin for us. But we through faith become the righteousness of god.

In him. Yes. God predestined us to be justified. Did he predestin us to be glorified? Yes. He predestined us not just to be forgiven. Of all our sin and counted as perfectly righteous. But even to be made in our character in our condition, Perfectly righteous. So that there is no sin left whatsoever.

But all of these things that he predestined us to, Are unto this end. That in the relationship that he was determined to have with us. We would not just be. Redeemed creatures. But adopted children. Who are conformed to his son. That jesus would be glorified. In having made us glorious.

And then in appearing. Forever. Together with those. Who have been conformed to him. That's, What we were predestined to whom, he foreign you, he predestined To be conformed to the image of his son. That he might be the firstborn. Among many brethren. So god four knows us whom he for you.

But he also knows everything that's going to happen, why? Because he works all things according to the council of his will. To bring everything unto this end. That at the last. Jesus would be the firstborn. And there would be a multitude of his brethren. Who have been made, who have been pressed exactly into his shape.

And he would be glorified. In us, and we Would be glorified with him, even as we heard. From second Thessalonians 1. Yesterday evening. And so we can know that all things are working together. For our good if we're saints. Because the way we came to be lovers of god.

It's because god has determined. To work all things together for christ's glory in us. And our being glorified. With him. Let's pray.

Our gracious garden our heavenly father, We thank you that even our calling you Father. There's a partial. Fulfillment of what we have just been considering from your word. And that your spirit who prays for us, Who prays exactly for all those things? Who prays? Rightly about how they would work together.

Who prays with? Full and perfect knowledge and design knowledge of and desire for the glory. To which you are bringing us. That he is the one who makes us to call

you father. He is the one who convinces us of what we know that you are doing. All of these things because you have determined this.

As we pray for the ongoing help of your spirit. That he would continue his ministry in our hearts. That he would continue his ministry to our minds. And that he would continue glorifying christ. By making us to be more and more like he is Until the last day. We are both with him and like him.

Oh lord, help us. For we are not yet with him in that way. And we are not light yet, like him as we ought to be. And so we are needy. But you o lord have the kingdom. And the power. And the glory. And we have confidence through christ.

That you will hear and answer. This prayer. And that it will be that way forever. And so we ask it in jesus name, amen.