

## I KNOW part 11: “God Saves Me” 02.26.12

Scripture: Romans 8:29-30 NIV84

Videos: “I KNOW Sermon Series”

**Intro:** We come today to the beginning of the climatic end of Romans 8. We learned last time that “in all things God works for the good of those who love him.” (Romans. 8:28 NIV) We are about to study that (a) God is on my side, (b) Jesus is making the case for me, (c) Hard times will not defeat me, and (d) Nothing will separate me from God’s love!

To really understand this we have to understand the concept of God’s Unconditional Election - or choice - of those whom He saves. This is a topic that many Christians don’t like to consider, but we can’t escape this idea of God’s election - because the Bible talks so much about it!

### Read through selection of verses in handout.

This brings us to our study today, Romans 8:29-30 NIV84.

“For those God foreknew, he also predestined to be conformed to the likeness of his Son, that he might be the firstborn among many brothers. And those he predestined, he also called; those he called, he also justified; those he justified, he also glorified.”

### Five Links in the Chain of Salvation

**Link #1:** God’s FOREKNOWLEDGE. *For those God foreknew...*

We are told in multiple places in the Bible that God knew us before we were even born. This strikes at the heart of our “time problem.” As human beings we operate on the basis of sequential events, one happening after the other. We move from event to event to event. We have a history, we have a “now,” and we have a future. God however works on an entirely different level. He invented time. He is outside of time. All time is “now” to Him! So to say that God foreknew something is to put it in our language, in our understanding of things. Of course God knows how it’s going to turn out. He knows the choices you and I are going to make. He knows which of us will choose Him and which will not. How could God NOT KNOW this about all of us? *What is significant about God’s foreknowledge is the connection to the next link...*

**Link #2:** God’s PREDESTINATION. *“... he also predestined to be conformed to the likeness of his Son, that he might be the firstborn among many brothers....”*

This is where we see God at work in our salvation. God just doesn’t know who will choose him and who will not, God actively engages in our lives making it possible for us to choose him. Remember, we live in the moment to moment of life, bound by time. For those of us who are Christ-followers, we look back at our decision to choose Christ - and BTW it certainly LOOKS like our choice at the time of our choosing. But what we must remember is that NONE of us are predisposed to choose Christ. In fact, we are all bent away from God. We are told that we are all dead spiritually! (Eph. 2:1) If we have been stirred within our dead spirits it can only be because God has made us alive! God predestined you and me to be able to choose him! This is not at all *conditional* on what I have done or deserve. It is entirely *unconditional!*

To make this entirely clear that this is what the Bible has in mind, we move directly from the predestination of God to the calling of God...

**Link #3:** God's CALLING. *"And those he predestined, he also called..."*

When the Bible talks about being called, there are two kinds:

- A. The EXTERNAL CALL is the preaching of the gospel. Everyone who hears the gospel preached is called or summoned to Christ. But not everyone responds positively to this outward call. Some ignore it and others flatly reject it. Sometimes the gospel falls on deaf ears. Many who hear this external calling are never justified. So this cannot be the meaning of v. 30
- B. The INTERNAL CALL given only to those who are predestined by God. Also known as effectual calling. There is an implied ALL in v. 29-30. All those who God foreknows and predestines ARE called, justified and glorified. (If you don't use the implied ALL, then you must use SOME, and that makes nonsense out of the meaning... Of those whom God foreknew, some were predestined? Some were called, some of those were justified and glorified? No. Predestination precedes calling.

If you are a Christ-follower, if you have heard God's inward calling to your life, and you have responded with the desire to follow Christ - it is only because of God's foreknowing, predestined, calling love! *And because...*

**Link #4:** God's JUSTIFICATION. *"Those he called he also justified:"*

Justification is a forensic term, opposed to condemnation (Remember Sermon #1 in series!) It is the judicial act of God, by which he pardons all the sins of those who believe in Christ, and treats them as righteous in the eye of the law, i.e., as conformed to all its demands. In addition to the pardon of sin, justification declares that all the claims of the law are satisfied in respect of the justified. The law is not relaxed or set aside, but is declared to be fulfilled; and so the person justified is declared to be entitled to all the advantages and rewards arising from perfect obedience to the law (Rom. 5:1-10). It proceeds on the imputing or crediting to the believer by God himself of the perfect righteousness, active and passive, of his Representative and Surety, Jesus Christ (Rom. 10:3-9). Justification is not the forgiveness of a man without righteousness, but a declaration that he possesses Christ's righteousness which perfectly and forever satisfies the law (2 Cor. 5:21; Rom. 4:6-8).

**Link #5:** God's GLORIFICATION. *"Those he justified, he also glorified."*

Glorification is the completion the perfection, the full realization of salvation. Notice the verb is in the past tense - in God's timing - already accomplished. Hard for us to grasp, because for us, this is still in our future. Glorification is a perfect, incontestable standing before God in the day of judgment. Paul, anticipating the day of the wrath of God, said that if believers are now saved by the death of Christ, in that day they shall be totally vindicated by the life (or intercession) of Christ. In Romans 8:38, 39 Paul says that nothing shall separate believers from the love of Christ, now or in the age to come. In glorification believers shall be in a state of complete exoneration from any possible charge.

### **Three Questions About Election:**

**1. Is God just?** We must be careful in how we respond to this. God is good and nothing in what we have taught today should ever lead us to believe that God would ever do anything but the very best. We should always remember that God is God and we are not. Never should we infer anything but the best good on God's part - **"What shall we say then? Is there injustice on God's part? By no means!"** Romans 9:14 The truth is that all people are bent away from God and not towards him. The only way any of us every find our way to Him is by His mercy! "Deserving" has to do with what people have done. If we - any of us - go on the basis of deserving, then we will be eternally separated from God.

**2. Is there room to disagree?** This is an issue that Christians have struggled with for centuries. I would not be so adamant or arrogant to say that only my view (the Reformed view) is the correct view of salvation. I would suggest that we - especially in America - must recognize the bent we all have toward wanting this to be our choice and not God's choice. Our engagement should not be from the standpoint of our own wishes, but from the standpoint of what Scripture teaches.

**3. What is the benefit of God's election? (1)** To know that God is working in all things for my good. To know that NOTHING will EVER separate me from God's love. BTW - that includes my own failing. (2) to be humble in my walk with Christ. That I'm not a Christ-follower because I have chose HIM and lived a righteous, holy life, but that HE CHOSE ME... and I know I've done nothing to deserve that choosing. That's humbling! (3) Encourages my love and worship of God - how could I ever truly respond to his love for me with anything other than my whole self completely and fully? (4) Encourage evangelism! That might be a surprise because you might think that why bother? God will save whom God will save. But He has chosen the method of YOU sharing and YOU telling the good news story. We never know WHO God is in the process of making that INWARD CALL. So we are faithful to make that OUTWARD CALL as best we know how.

**Communion.**