

Romans #123

“Our Conformation”

*Romans 8:29-30 John 8:30-32*

**God’s knowledge of Himself precedes time and space; therefore, His knowledge of Himself is not subject**

**to time and space; He will not know more about Himself tomorrow.**

No matter how desperate or out of control a situation may be, it is never out of control in Heaven and

God gave us a spiritual life to understand and apply that fact and never be out of control ourselves even in uncontrollable situations.

*And the way infinite God revealed Himself to finite man is the way God wants to be understood by*

*His finite creatures.*

**As human beings, we were originally created in the image of God but that image was corrupted by sin and the good news is, in the experiential sanctification of the believer, the character of God’s Son, Jesus Christ is being developed in us.**

It’s not that God’s desire isn’t the best for carnal, loser believers but Paul, John and James assume that the normal Christian would want to strive for spiritual maturity, so they write with winners in mind.

*In the Old Testament, calling or election is related to Israel as God’s elect or even better, His choice ones.*

The context of Romans 8:17-39 challenges believers to press on in suffering with Christ, becoming co-heirs with Him.

The glory of God is His character, nature or essence, so our glorification is the essence, nature or character of God revealed in us.

**Election is the expression of the sovereignty of God before the human race, the universe or anything else existed except God.**

Election is the expression of God’s will for us long before anything existed and God willed for us in eternity past, the highest and best; our greater escrow blessings for time and eternity, having been deposited by God the Father in eternity past.

*Greater is far greater than any normal blessings we associate with life; far more than living grace support blessings.*

Predestination is the provision of the sovereignty of God for us in eternity past to execute God’s plan, purpose and will for our life.

**All true disciples of Christ are believers but not all believers are true disciples.**

Paul prayed for and primarily encouraged mature believers or those seeking to be mature.

*If we truly love God, we’ll keep His commands but isn’t that law? No, it’s recognition of God’s sovereignty, righteousness, justice and omnipotence, knowing that He’s in charge.*

Obeying God is first, knowing and then trusting Him; it's not simply an emotional sentimentality, so if we are not attempting to keep His commands, we are not expressing love which constitutes respect for Him.

**In fact, this is love for God: to keep His commands. And His commands are not burdensome, 1<sup>st</sup>John 5:3**

The believer was in the mind or thinking of God in eternity past and therefore, thinking is major part of our function also, God must be in our thoughts.

*Man is never benefited under God's plan by man's talent, works, thoughts or plans; man is blessed on the basis of who and what God is and what God has provided through grace.*

Without interfering with human free-will in any way, God designed a plan so perfect that it includes cause and effect, directive, provision, preservation and function for all believers. God's decrees do not come from His foreknowledge; the foreknowledge of God makes nothing certain; it only sees in eternity past, the things that are certain.

**The more serious we are, the more concentrated our intake of truth and the sooner we reach spiritual maturity and the sooner we do, the sooner God is free to benefit us to the maximum.**

**This Man was handed over to you by God's deliberate plan and foreknowledge and you, with the help of wicked men, put Him to death by nailing Him to the cross.**

**Acts 2:23**

Placing foreknowledge before the decrees chronologically as the hyper-Calvinist would, implies that another has caused and God is merely aware of it and that would be blasphemy.

These things are broken down into steps to indicate that believers are the object of these processes, demonstrating that the ultimate objective of God is the good or glory of God. Since the divine decrees establish certainty, nothing can be foreknown until it is first decreed, so the order is: omniscience, then the decrees, then foreknowledge.

**We are the conformed ones to the image of His Son which means we'll have a resurrection body as the target for the blessings and rewards.**

Jesus Christ is the Firstborn of the royal family, therefore its Ruler, its High Priest, as well as the One possessing the double portion heritage.

*When we put the puzzle pieces all together in context, we see that Paul brings up predestination and foreknowledge to comfort us in undeserved suffering to understand its purpose so we can be conformed to the image of Jesus Christ through consistent spiritual growth.*