

Evening Worship / February 12 2023

“God’s Glorious, Unstoppable Providence, Our Unstoppable Salvation!”

Romans 8:28-30

I. God’s people know about this providence, those who are not His, don’t! -

²⁸ **And we know that all things work together for good to those who love God, to those who are the called according to His purpose. Romans 8:28 (NKJV)**

1. *We know, this is the knowledge of Christians, the knowledge of believers, it is the kind of knowledge that keeps us going when times are hard!*

2. *All things, really everything, but in context especially trials, difficulties, work together, like a powerful medicine or a great team for our good, our pains are GAINS!*

3. *To those who LOVE GOD, who are elect, called according to His purpose –*

A. This is definitely NOT everyone, we are called to, commanded to love God –

⁴ **“Hear, O Israel: The LORD our God, the LORD is one! ⁵ You shall love the LORD your God with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your strength. Deuteronomy 6:4–5 (NKJV)**

B. We love God by keeping His commandments –

¹⁵ **“If you love Me, keep My commandments. John 14:15 (NKJV)**

C. It is obedience that makes us shine –

¹² **Therefore, my beloved, as you have always obeyed, not as in my presence only, but now much more in my absence, work out your own salvation with fear and trembling; ¹³ for it is God who works in you both to will and to do for His good pleasure. ¹⁴ Do all things without complaining and disputing, ¹⁵ that you may become blameless and harmless, children of God without fault in the midst of a crooked and perverse generation, among whom you shine as lights in the world, Philippians 2:12–15 (NKJV)**

Those who LOVE God, His People, have all things working for their good, meaning God, through His Spirit is working in them, with His providence, what He ordains in their lives, He is working FOR them! Meaning everything that happens to them, whether a hurricane or a candy cane, is going to work toward their ultimate benefit and blessing ...

We see this same truth taught in a slightly different way in other passages of Scripture, for instance, Psalm 1 –

¹ **Blessed is the man Who walks not in the counsel of the ungodly, Nor stands in the path of sinners, Nor sits in the seat of the scornful; ² But his delight is in the law of the LORD, And in His law he meditates day and night. ³ He shall be like a tree Planted by the rivers of water, That brings forth its fruit in its season, Whose leaf also shall not wither; And whatever he does shall prosper.**

⁴ **The ungodly are not so, But are like the chaff which the wind drives away. ⁵ Therefore the ungodly shall not stand in the judgment, Nor sinners in the congregation of the righteous.**

⁶ **For the LORD knows the way of the righteous, But the way of the ungodly shall perish. Psalm 1:1–6 (NKJV)**

II. God's people learn to love this providence, as they REALIZE what God is doing –

²⁹ For whom He foreknew, He also predestined to be conformed to the image of His Son, that He might be the firstborn among many brethren. Romans 8:29 (NKJV)

Their pains have this purpose, to make them more like Jesus –

When God wants to drill a man, and thrill a man, and skill a man
when God wants to mold a man to play the noblest part;
when He yearns with all His heart to create so great and bold a man
that all the world shall be amazed, watch His methods, watch His ways!
How He ruthlessly perfects whom He royally elects!
How He hammers him and hurts him, and with mighty blows converts him
into trial shapes of clay which only God understands;
While his tortured heart is crying and he lifts beseeching hands!
How He bends but never breaks When his good He undertakes;
how He uses whom He chooses, and which every purpose fuses him;
By every act induces him to try His splendor out- God knows what He's about!

1. *Molding sinners into the image of Jesus Christ is no easy task, by nature this is NOT WHO we are ...*

An ungodly world cheers Captain Kirk (Star trek) not Jesus Christ, the REBEL, not He Who is obedient –

- A. *We need the right mindset -*

⁵ Let this mind be in you which was also in Christ Jesus, Philippians 2:5

- B. *Jesus was and is the God-Man, yet He was humble and obedient -*

⁶ who, being in the form of God, did not consider it robbery to be equal with God, ⁷ but made Himself of no reputation, taking the form of a bondservant, and coming in the likeness of men.

**⁸ And being found in appearance as a man, He humbled Himself and became obedient...
Philippians 2:6-8 A**

*C. He was obedient to the point of death, even the horrible death of the cross -
... obedient to the point of death, even the death of the cross. Philippians 2:8 B*

- D. *Seeing this, we realize God's Son was hated, despised by this rebellious world, by honored and highly exalted by God ...*

**⁹ Therefore God also has highly exalted Him and given Him the name which is above every name,
¹⁰ that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, of those in heaven, and of those on earth, and of those under the earth, ¹¹ and that every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father. Philippians 2:5–11 (NKJV)**

- E. *He is the Example for our obedience –*

¹² Therefore, my beloved, as you have always obeyed, not as in my presence only, but now much more in my absence, work out your own salvation with fear and trembling; Philippians 2:12 See also again Philippians 2:13-15 God will make us SHINE!

2. *He is the Image of God, that we hope to be –*

¹ God, ... ² has in these last days spoken to us by *His Son*, ...³ who being the brightness of *His* glory and the express image of His person, Hebrews 1:2 & :3 (NKJV)

3. *As Christ He is Prophet (knowledge) and Priest (righteousness) and King (holiness) and as Christians we are renewed in these same three things into His and God's image -*

¹⁰ and have put on the new *man* who is renewed in knowledge according to the image of Him who created him, Colossians 3:10 (NKJV)

²⁴ and that you put on the new man which was created according to God, in true righteousness and holiness. Ephesians 4:24 (NKJV)

III. *God's people rejoice in His, providence, as they know it is part of God's eternal plan –*

³⁰ Moreover whom He predestined, these He also called; whom He called, these He also justified; and whom He justified, these He also glorified. Romans 8:30 (NKJV)

1. *Jeremiah, the weeping prophet understood this –*

³ The LORD has appeared of old to me, *saying*: “Yes, I have loved you with an everlasting love; Therefore with lovingkindness I have drawn you. Jeremiah 31:3 (NKJV)

2. *Jeremiah had his hard times & enemies –*

⁷ O LORD, You induced me, and I was persuaded; You are stronger than I, and have prevailed. I am in derision daily; Everyone mocks me. ⁸ For when I spoke, I cried out; I shouted, “Violence and plunder!” Because the word of the LORD was made to me A reproach and a derision daily. ⁹ Then I said, “I will not make mention of Him, Nor speak anymore in His name.” But *His word* was in my heart like a burning fire Shut up in my bones; I was weary of holding *it* back, And I could not. ¹⁰ For I heard many mocking: “Fear on every side!” “Report,” *they say*, “and we will report it!” All my acquaintances watched for my stumbling, *saying*, “Perhaps he can be induced; Then we will prevail against him, And we will take our revenge on him.” ¹¹ But the LORD *is* with me as a mighty, awesome One. Therefore my persecutors will stumble, and will not prevail. They will be greatly ashamed, for they will not prosper. *Their* everlasting confusion will never be forgotten. ¹² But, O LORD of hosts, You who test the righteous, *And* see the mind and heart, Let me see Your vengeance on them; For I have pleaded my cause before You. ¹³ Sing to the LORD! Praise the LORD! For He has delivered the life of the poor From the hand of evildoers. ¹⁴ Cursed *be* the day in which I was born! Let the day not be blessed in which my mother bore me! ¹⁵ Let the man *be* cursed Who brought news to my father, *saying*, “A male child has been born to you!” Making him very glad. ¹⁶ And let that man be like the cities Which the LORD—overthrew, and did not relent; Let him hear the cry in the morning And the shouting at noon, ¹⁷ Because he did not kill me from the womb, That my mother might have been my grave, And her womb always enlarged *with me*. ¹⁸ Why did I come forth from the womb to see labor and sorrow, That my days should be consumed with shame? Jeremiah 20:7–18 (NKJV)

3. *But he knew God's LOVE –*

³ The LORD has appeared of old to me, *saying*: “Yes, I have loved you with an everlasting love; Therefore with lovingkindness I have drawn you. Jeremiah 31:3 (NKJV)

A. *Predestined –*

“John Newton used to tell a whimsical story, and laugh at it, too, of a good woman who said, in order to prove the doctrine of election, “Ah! sir, the Lord must have loved me before I was born, or else He would not have seen anything in me to love afterwards.” I am sure it is true in

my case; I believe the doctrine of election, because I am quite certain that, if God had not chosen me, I should never have chosen Him; and I am sure He chose me before I was born, or else He never would have chosen me afterwards; and He must have elected me for reasons unknown to me, for I never could find any reason in myself why He should have looked upon me with special love. So I am forced to accept that great Biblical doctrine.” C. H. Spurgeon

B. Called –

these He also called...

1. *What is in view here is what theologians call and effectual calling, it is a call that is answered, that results in faith, salvation, and godly obedient living!*

2. *In another place in Scripture, we read of Jesus saying –*

¹⁴ **“For many are called, but few are chosen.” Matthew 22:14 (NKJV)**

3. *God is the ONE Who makes the call effectual, this is why we have to PRAY –*

⁶ **I planted, Apollos watered, but God gave the increase. 1 Corinthians 3:6 (NKJV)**

“If I were not a Calvinist, I think I should have no more hope of success in preaching to men than in preaching to horses or cows.” John Newton (Author of Amazing Grace)

C. Justified –

... these He also justified;

“The justification spoken of here is doubtless the same as that about which the apostle has been speaking throughout the letter, where sinners are treated as if they were righteous, because of the righteousness of Christ.” Charles Hodge

D. Glorified –

...these He also glorified. Romans 8:30 (NKJV)

⁶ **being confident of this very thing, that He who has begun a good work in you will complete it until the day of Jesus Christ; Philippians 1:6 (NKJV)**

² **looking unto Jesus, the Author and Finisher of our faith, who for the joy that was set before Him endured the cross, despising the shame, and has sat down at the right hand of the throne of God. Hebrews 12:2 (NKJV)**

God starts our salvation before we are born or even conceived (Predestination) and He finishes it (glorification) after we die!

“Amazing grace, how sweet the sound, that saved a wretch like me, I once was LOST but now I am found, was blind but now I see ...

When we’ve been there ten thousand years, bright shinning as the sun, we’ve no less days to sing God’s praise than when we first begun!”

John Newton