

## **Romans 8:29-30 – The Golden Chain of Success and Safety**

TSK, GreekLexicon, Bouwers, Handfuls, Rienecker, Steele, Gaebelin, Vincent, Robertson, Trapp, PNT, Poole, Henry, Geneva, Koning, Calvin, Fam Brothers and Sisters in the Lord: Before you became a Christian **you were chained in slavery by Satan**, imprisoned with no possibility of release.

### **You were in nasty chains.**

This is not strange, however, as Satan's goal is always to steal, to kill, and to destroy.

He never has his captors' interest at heart.

### **But Christians have a golden chain...a chain not of slavery, but a golden chain that shows freedom and security!**

### **Your loving Father gave you that beautiful golden necklace to show you whose you are and to give you assurance you are his for eternity.**

Hear about this golden chain today.

Our headings are:

#### **The Definition of the Golden Chain**

#### **The Purpose of the Golden Chain**

#### **The Explanation of the Golden Chain**

Our goals are: **That you will see and believe the Lord will save and secure you for eternity with his Golden Chain of salvation and you will then live your life with thankfulness, confidence, and full obedience.**

### **The Definition of the Golden Chain**

#### **1. From where did this term, The Golden Chain, come?**

**This term is not found in the Bible, but it was used by the writers of the Canons of Dort.**

**This term was used to reject the errors of Arminians who argued that election was conditional on man** (which implied that man was not as sinful as he is), that man had to choose God of his own free will, that man could resist God's salvation, and that man could, in fact, lose his salvation.

You can find it in Canons of Dort 1 Head of Doctrine, Rejection of Errors 2.

**It is specifically called: “The unbreakable golden chain of our salvation.”**

## **2. So what exactly does The Golden Chain mean?**

It means God begins and completes the processes of saving mankind in an unstoppable way **out of love**.

**This golden chain is unbreakable.**

## **3. Lessons:**

**a. Some people hold as their mantra “no creed but Christ.”**

They believe you don’t need to know all kinds of doctrines. All you need to know is Jesus died for you and loves you.

But how can you know how much Jesus loves you unless you get into deep doctrines?

Their mantra hurts your ability to love Jesus like you should.

You have to know the hopelessness of your condition when you were a slave to Satan and the depth of your security in Jesus.

You have to know the holiness of God, and you have to know the extent of what Jesus had to do to fix the problem!

So learn doctrines! Teach doctrines to your children.

**b. Rejoice in the security you have in Jesus.** Never see serving him as a restriction on your freedom.

He only restricts you from what is bad! Isn’t he wonderful?

## **The Purpose of the Golden Chain**

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.**

### **1. God loved man when man did not love him.**

“Foreknew” did not mean “know before.” There is a special meaning for “fore**know**ing.” (Butter and fly do not make butterflies.) This “know” means to know in a close way, as when Adam knew his wife and she became pregnant. So it is best translated as love...so “foreloved.”

Jeremiah 1: 5 "**Before I formed you in the womb I knew you**; Before you were born I sanctified you; I ordained you a prophet to the nations."

Ephesians 1:4 just as He chose us in Him before the foundation of the world, that we should be holy and without blame before Him in love, 5 having predestined us to adoption as sons by Jesus Christ to Himself, **according to the good pleasure of His will,**

Look at one of the clearest cases. God knew (intellectually) all the nations of the earth, but **he loved Israel** and punished him!

Amos 3:2 "**You only have I known of all the families of the earth;** Therefore I will punish you for all your iniquities."

## **2. God then predestined sinful men to be conformed to the image of his Son.**

**This means those men were chosen to be made like Christ.**

Romans 12:1 I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that you present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable to God, which is your reasonable service. 2 And do not be conformed to this world, **but be transformed by the renewing of your mind**, that you may prove what is that good and acceptable and perfect will of God.

2 Thessalonians 2:13 But we are bound to give thanks to God always for you, brethren beloved by the Lord, **because God from the beginning chose you for salvation through sanctification by the Spirit and belief in the truth,**

## **3. In loving and choosing man for salvation, God's Son would be firstborn among his many brothers!**

**Huh? What does that mean? It meant by doing that work for man, Jesus would be preeminent.**

**Now you see the purpose of creation: The glory of Jesus!**

Colossians 1: 15 He is the image of the invisible God, **the firstborn over all creation.** 18 And He is the head of the body, the church, who is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead, **that in all things He may have the preeminence.**

Revelation 1: 5 and from Jesus Christ, the faithful witness, the **firstborn from the dead**, and the **ruler over the kings of the earth**...

Israel's firstborn son became the head of the family and on him the rest of the family depended. (More covenant headship!)

**Now Jesus is the firstborn Son on whom the whole Christian family depends.**

**God "foreloving" is with the view that man would work for his glory – his good pleasure.**

#### **4. Lessons:**

**a. Your salvation is based on God's desire to exalt his Son – about his glory.**

Your salvation was from love but it was **primarily about the exaltation of Jesus.**

Psalms 45:7 You love righteousness and hate wickedness; Therefore God, Your God, **has anointed You With the oil of gladness more than Your companions.** 8 All Your garments are scented with myrrh and aloes and cassia, Out of the ivory palaces, by which they have made You glad.

**b. This leads you to humility.** You are not the center of the world. Your election is first about the glory of Jesus Christ!

**c. Let humility then lead you to change.**

Worship God the way he says, not the way you want.

Raise your children the way God says.

Vote the way God says.

Put others first.

Love God. Love man!

#### **The Explanation of the Golden Chain**

30 Moreover whom **He predestined**, these **He also called**; whom He called, these **He also justified**; and whom He justified, these **He also glorified**.

**1. God predestined (decreed) those whom he would save, just as he determines everything that happens.**

Acts 4: 27 "For truly against Your holy Servant Jesus, whom You anointed, both Herod and Pontius Pilate, with the Gentiles and the people of Israel, were gathered together 28 **to do whatever Your**

**hand and Your purpose determined before to be done.**

**2. Those whom God predestined *he called to himself*, not in a haphazard way, but in a determined, effective, irresistible way.**

**This call comes from the Holy Spirit using the Word of God.** It is a call to come out from the wicked.

It is a warm, caring call.

It is not an indifferent call.

It is a call from love to the ones he foreloved!

2 Thessalonians 2:14 to which He called you by our gospel, for the obtaining of the glory of our Lord Jesus Christ.

**This call comes from the pulpit and the pew.**

**3. Those whom God called, *he justified*, based on the work of Jesus.**

**The called are declared innocent because Jesus took their punishment.** Who can lay a charge to God's elect?

Their debts are crossed out...marked as "Paid in Full."

**Their conviction is vacated.**

**4. Those whom he justified, *he glorified*.**

**If you suffer with him, you will reign with him. You will get a glorious body free from sin, shame, and pain.**

1Corinthians 15:49 And as we have borne the image of the man of dust, we shall also bear the image of the heavenly Man. 52 in a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trumpet. For the trumpet will sound, and the dead will be raised incorruptible, and we shall be changed. 53 For this corruptible must put on incorruption, and this mortal must put on immortality.

Philippians 3: 20 For our citizenship is in heaven, from which we also eagerly wait for the Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ, 21 who will

transform our lowly body that it may be conformed to His glorious body, according to the working by which He is able even to subdue all things to Himself.

1John 3: 2 Beloved, now we are children of God; and it has not yet been revealed what we shall be, but we know that when He is revealed, we shall be like Him, for we shall see Him as He is.

God wrote it as if it were done already, as if glorification has already taken place. It is certain!

### **5. The conspicuous thing that is missing is sanctification – but for good reason.**

Apostle Paul had just gone into detail about sanctification as the whole church was in that process, so sanctification was implied and the people knew it.

### **6. Lessons:**

**a. Since God uses external calls, continue to play your part by speaking Gospel truth to the world, and pray for and encourage those who are doing so.**

**b. If God calls 100, 100 are justified, 100 are sanctified, and 100 are glorified!**

None is ever lost! So if you heard the outward call and the inward call, rejoice!

Sing. Praise God!

**c. God continues to strengthen you by his Word and sacrament today.** Feed on it.

In doing this you will also **be assured** of your coming glorification more and more.

**d. If your salvation depended on another person, he could change his mind and you'd be lost forever, or he may not have the ability to do it, but not your God.**

He was willing and able to save you. Rejoice.

**e. Election must never be used as an excuse for sin,** neither for the Christian nor for the non-Christian. Divine sovereignty **uses human agency** to accomplish its decree.

So if you are a believer, fight against sin.

**If you are not a believer, do not say, “I am going to sin because I am not elected.” You sin because you are a sinner.**

**Conclusion:**

**You were elected, called, justified, sanctified, and glorified wondrously.** This is *The Golden Chain.*

Once you were elected, your glorification was certain!

**All of this happened through the saving work of Jesus** who was also chosen for this from eternity.

1Peter 1:20 **He indeed was foreordained before the foundation of the world, but was manifest in these last times for you.**

Beloved in the Lord Jesus:

**1. Praise God!** You have The Golden Chain!

This is not like the chains of slavery to keep you trapped. This is like a 24-carat chain around your neck to show how much your Father loves you.

It shows he owns you. No one will dare to touch you.

A wretched sinner is now child of Almighty God.

He broke Satan's chains and made you free.

**2. Be humble.** You Father loves you, but you still have to obey him.

You are desperate for him. He isn't for you.

**3. Live your life with thankfulness, faithfulness, and true obedience.**

Doing this will bring glory to the one for whom all things were designed – the Lord Jesus Christ.

Finally: If you are not a Christian, you are still in the chains of Satan and those chains will lead you to hell. That is the reality.

But there is a way of liberation!

Genuinely cry out to God for rescue and he will rescue you. Jesus paid for sinners' freedom.