

# **The Absolute Security of the Believer Stated in One of the Greatest Promises in the Bible Pt 2**

## **Romans 8:28–30**

### **Romans 8:28–30 (NKJV)**

<sup>28</sup> 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. <sup>29</sup> 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. <sup>30</sup> Moreover whom He predestined, these He also called; whom He called, these He also justified; and whom He justified, these He also glorified.

## **Introduction**

Nothing can be so helpful than to have the full assurance that something good is going to take place. Nothing can be so liberating and encouraging in the daily struggles with the world, the flesh and the devil than to have a positive view of the future.

If all we had to look forward to was gloom and doom and agony with no hope a future deliverance, we would be men and women of a most miserable character.

What little motivation would you have if you believed all will be destroyed there would be no future remembrance of all that you did for Christ and all would be forgotten.

What Reasons would you have to persevere, if the future was dark and dreary and uncertain.

Those who faced some of the most horrific of persecution and attacks of the devil in the History of the world, and endured until the end, all had hope of the city made without hands. The future Glory of the kingdom of God unaffected and unstained by evil, with the devil banished into his eternal abode in the lake of fire.

The Puritans were such men, affected so much by their reading of Scripture and their Post-millennial eschatology, that the future was sure, it was bright, even over the dark horizon.

JC Ryle in an "Estimate of Thomas Manton" written in 1870 said "the Puritans as a body have done more to elevate the national character than any class of Englishmen that ever lived. The source

of influence was their theology and within that theology there was an attitude to history and to the world which distinguish them as men of hope. In their own day this hope came to expression in pulpits and in books, in parliaments and upon battlefields but it did not end there. The outlook they had done so much to inspire went on for nearly 200 years after their own age and its results were manifold. It colored the spiritual thought of the American colonies; it taught men to expect Great outpourings of the Holy Spirit; it prepared the way to the New Age of world missions; and it contributed largely to that sense of destiny which came to characterize the English-speaking protestant nations. When 19th century Christian leaders such as William Wilberforce viewed the world not so much as a wreck from which individual souls must escape, but rather as the property of Christ whose kingdom the earth and the fullness thereof must belong, there thinking bore the genuine hallmark of the Puritan outlook.” *The Puritan Hope, Ian Murray. Pg. xxiv*

What a powerful example of what Hope can do when it is grounded in the express purposes of God found in Holy writ.

And this is what this passage before us does.

It gives us hope. Unlimited Hope. But not just hope that it might happen, but rather assurance that it will happen.

Grounded in the the Express Sovereign Providential purposes of God.

## **Review.**

The Reality of this Promise

The Recipients of this Promise

The Reason of this Promise

## **I. The Reality of this Promise**

**28** And we know that all things work together for good

## **1. Good works together for Good**

God's goodness works for Good

Gods Word works for Good.

Gods Grace is for Good.

Government can work for Good

Having a Godly parents can be good

Obeying your parents can be for Good.

Being a Good employee can work for Good

## **2. Bad works together for Good.**

Here we do not mean bad in the sense of evil, or sinful, but just bad, not good.

Its not suffering for the faith.

Part of living in a fallen world.

1. flat tire on the way to an important appointment

2. broken pipe that floods your house while on vacation.

3. a storms destroys your home

4. Rejected by the one you want to marry.

5. Bad grade on a test you studied all night for.

**We learn perseverance and develop character**

**We learn to depend on Christ**

**We learn not to worry**

**Learn to be content**

## **3. Suffering works together for Good**

**Suffering in the Wilderness**

Suffering in Captivity  
Suffering in this Body  
Suffering of Christ is our Example  
Suffering can also teach us to hate sin.

### **3. Evil works together for Good**

Evil can bring Glory to Christ and Maturity to a Believer

Our response to Evil can be used to bring others to Christ.

God and Use Evil to put His glory on display

### **4. Temptation works together for Good**

James 1:12

### **5. Sin works together for Good**

Sin reminds us of our falseness

Sin reminds us of God's Holiness

Sin Reminds us our our Savior

Sin Reminds us of the greatness of God's Love and Grace

## **2. The Recipients of this Promise**

This Promise, of all things working together for Good is not for everyone.

It is not for the unregenerate. The Lost, the Christ rejectors. Their life and the the choices they are making will not end well for them. The ultimate end of the unbeliever is Hell.

This Promise is only for the believers. The Recipients are only the saved.

They are characterized as

1. The ones who are lovers of God
2. The ones that are being called by God.

One is from

1. The Human Perspective

The other from

2. The Devine Perspective.

1. The Responsibility of Man

2. The Sovereignty of God

1. The Character of True Saving Faith
2. The Divine Drawing of the Father

The first characteristic of this Promise is that he is a lover of God.

**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.

Οἶδαμεν δὲ ὅτι τοῖς ἀγαπῶσι τὸν θεὸν πάντα συνεργεῖ εἰς ἀγαθόν, τοῖς κατὰ πρόθεσιν κλητοῖς οὖσιν.

The phrase “to those who love God” is first in the order of the Greek sentence, therefore giving emphasis to this Characteristic.

This is absolutely critical to understand.

There are a lot of words and descriptions that Paul could have used to describe the Christian

He could have used “Saved”

“Believer”

“Faithful”



“Beloved”

“Brethern”

But He chose one of the most essential and Biblically stated characteristics in the Bible for the Believer.

He is a lover of God.

**28** And we know that all things work together for good to those who love God,

ὅτι τοῖς ἀγαπῶσι τὸν θεὸν

ἀγαπῶσι Pres. Act. Part = To the ones continually loving God.

agapaó: to love

**Original Word:** ἀγαπάω

**Part of Speech:** Verb

**Transliteration:** agapaó

**Phonetic Spelling:** (ag-ap-ah'-o)

**Definition:** to love

**Usage:** I love, wish well to, take pleasure in, long for; denotes the love of reason, esteem.

Cognate: 25 agapáō – properly, to prefer, to love; for the believer, preferring to "live through Christ" (1 Jn 4:9,10), i.e. embracing God's will (choosing His choices) and obeying them through His power. 25 (agapáō) preeminently refers to what God prefers as He "is love" (1 Jn 4:8,16). See 26 (agapē).

True Believers have always been characterized as lovers of God. IT marks them. They are know by this love.

We see it in the Old Testament

Exodus 20:5–6 (NKJV)

<sup>5</sup> ... For I, the Lord your God, *am* a jealous God, visiting the iniquity of the fathers upon the children to the third and fourth *generations* of those who hate Me, <sup>6</sup> but showing mercy to thousands, to those who love Me and keep My commandments.

Deuteronomy 7:9 (NKJV)

<sup>9</sup> “Therefore know that the Lord your God, He *is* God, the faithful God who keeps covenant and mercy for a thousand generations with those who love Him and keep His commandments;

Nehemiah 1:5 (NKJV)

<sup>5</sup> And I said: “I pray, Lord God of heaven, O great and awesome God, *You* who keep *Your* covenant and mercy with those who love You and observe Your commandments,

Psalms 69:35–36 (NKJV)

- <sup>35</sup> For God will save Zion  
And build the cities of Judah,  
That they may dwell there and possess it.
- <sup>36</sup> Also, the descendants of His servants shall inherit  
it,  
And those who love His name shall dwell in it.

Psalm 97:10 (NKJV)

- <sup>10</sup> You who love the Lord, hate evil!  
He preserves the souls of His saints;  
He delivers them out of the hand of the wicked.

Psalm 145:20 (NKJV)

- <sup>20</sup> The Lord preserves all who love Him,  
But all the wicked He will destroy.

Psalm 116:1–2 (NKJV)

- <sup>1</sup> I love the Lord, because He has heard My voice  
*and* my supplications.
- <sup>2</sup> Because He has inclined His ear to me,  
Therefore I will call *upon Him* as long as I live.

Proverbs 8:17 (NKJV)

- <sup>17</sup> I love those who love me,  
And those who seek me diligently will find me.

## In the New Testament also

### **1 Corinthians 2:9–10 (NKJV)**

<sup>9</sup> But as it is written:

*“Eye has not seen, nor ear heard,  
Nor have entered into the heart of man  
The things which God has prepared for those who  
love Him.”*

<sup>10</sup> But God has revealed *them* to us through His Spirit. For the Spirit searches all things, yes, the deep things of God.

### **1 Corinthians 8:3 (NKJV)**

<sup>3</sup> But if anyone loves God, this one is known by Him.

### **James 1:12 (NKJV)**

<sup>12</sup> Blessed *is* the man who endures temptation; for when he has been approved, he will receive the crown of life which the Lord has promised to those who love Him.

### **James 2:5 (NKJV)**

<sup>5</sup> Listen, my beloved brethren: Has God not chosen the poor of this world *to be* rich in faith and

heirs of the kingdom which He promised to those who love Him?

**1 Peter 1:8 (NKJV)**

<sup>8</sup> whom having not seen you love. Though now you do not see *Him*, yet believing, you rejoice with joy inexpressible and full of glory,

**Matthew 10:37 (NKJV)**

<sup>37</sup> He who loves father or mother more than Me is not worthy of Me. And he who loves son or daughter more than Me is not worthy of Me.

**John 8:42 (NKJV)**

<sup>42</sup> Jesus said to them, “If God were your Father, you would love Me, for I proceeded forth and came from God; nor have I come of Myself, but He sent Me.

**John 16:27 (NKJV)**

<sup>27</sup> for the Father Himself loves you, because you have loved Me, and have believed that I came forth from God.

**John 14:21 (NKJV)**

<sup>21</sup> He who has My commandments and keeps them, it is he who loves Me. And he who loves Me will be loved by My Father, and I will love him and manifest Myself to him.”

### **John 14:24 (NKJV)**

<sup>24</sup> He who does not love Me does not keep My words; and the word which you hear is not Mine but the Father’s who sent Me.

### **1 Corinthians 16:22 (NKJV)**

<sup>22</sup> If anyone does not love the Lord Jesus Christ, let him be accursed. O Lord, come!

### **Ephesians 6:24 (NKJV)**

<sup>24</sup> Grace *be* with all those who love our Lord Jesus Christ in sincerity. Amen.

Believers are characterized as lovers of God  
However they will not always love perfectly

### **John 21:15–17 (NKJV)**

<sup>15</sup> So when they had eaten breakfast, Jesus said to Simon Peter, “**Simon, son of Jonah, do you love Me more than these?**”

He said to Him, “Yes, Lord; You know that I love You.”

He said to him, “**Feed My lambs.**”

<sup>16</sup> He said to him again a second time, “**Simon, son of Jonah, do you love Me?**”

He said to Him, “Yes, Lord; You know that I love You.”

He said to him, “**Tend My sheep.**”

<sup>17</sup> He said to him the third time, “**Simon, son of Jonah, do you love Me?**” Peter was grieved because He said to him the third time, “**Do you love Me?**”

And he said to Him, “Lord, You know all things; You know that I love You.”

Jesus said to him, “**Feed My sheep.**”

But a genuine believer has a genuine love for God  
An on going desire for God produced by a genuine  
love of God.

### **Psalm 42:1–2 (NKJV)**

- 1 As the deer pants for the water brooks,  
So pants my soul for You, O God.
- 2 My soul thirsts for God, for the living God.  
When shall I come and appear before God?

### **Psalm 73:25–26 (NKJV)**

- <sup>25</sup> Whom have I in heaven *but You?*  
And *there is none upon earth that I desire besides You.*

<sup>26</sup> My flesh and my heart fail;  
*But God is the strength of my heart and my portion forever.*

This Love qualifies our faith, It qualifies our profession. If we are real we love God. We Love Christ.

### **Ephesians 6:24 (NKJV)**

<sup>24</sup> Grace *be* with all those who love our Lord Jesus Christ in **sincerity**. Amen.

### **aphtharsia: incorruptibility**

**Original Word:** ἀφθαρσία, ας, ἡ

**Part of Speech:** Noun, Feminine

**Transliteration:** aphtharsia

**Phonetic Spelling:** (af-thar-see'-ah)

**Definition:** incorruptibility

**Usage:** indestructibility, incorruptibility; hence: immortality.

Cognate: 861 aphtharsía – properly, no-corruption (unable to experience deterioration); incorruptibility (not perishable), i.e. lacking the very capacity to decay or constitutionally break down. [See 862a](#) (aphthartos).



**23.127 ἀφθαρσία<sup>a</sup>, ας f:** the state of not being subject to decay, leading to death—‘immortal, immortality.’ ἐγείρεται ἐν ἀφθαρσία ‘it will be raised immortal’ 1 Cor 15:42. It is possible to translate this clause as ‘it will be raised and will never again die.’

Louw, J. P., & Nida, E. A. (1996). *Greek-English lexicon of the New Testament: based on semantic domains* (electronic ed. of the 2nd edition., Vol. 1, p. 267). New York: United Bible Societies.

This Love has some characteristics of its own. Its more than an emotion, although it can produce emotion. It is not emotion.

It is not a feeling although it can produce intense feelings.

It is not Subjective, although there can be a subjective response to it .

## **A Biblical Love of God is:**

### 1. It is thrilled with knowing God as who He is

#### **Psalm 18:1–3 (NKJV)**

<sup>1</sup> I will love You, O Lord, my strength. <sup>2</sup> The Lord is my rock and my fortress and my deliverer; My God, my strength, in whom I will trust; My shield and the horn of my salvation, my stronghold.

<sup>3</sup> I will call upon the Lord, *who is worthy* to be praised;  
So shall I be saved from my enemies.

If someone truly Loves God, they will desire to know as much about Him. The depth is never reached, The soul is never fully satisfied, because you desire to know Him MORE

### **Philippians 3:8–10 (NKJV)**

<sup>8</sup> Yet indeed I also count all things loss for the excellence of the knowledge of Christ Jesus my Lord, ....<sup>10</sup> that I may know Him and the power of His resurrection, and the fellowship of His sufferings, being conformed to His death,

There is an unquenchable thirst that is not met just with a Sunday sermon, Those who Love God pursue God, run after Him. Read of Him. Listen to Him. Study Him.

## 2. It Trust God

### Psalm 31:23 (NKJV)

<sup>23</sup> Oh, love the Lord, all you His saints!  
*For* the Lord preserves the faithful,  
And fully repays the proud person.

Having learned more about the one you love, you find you can trust Him. He is a Trustworthy friend. A faithful Savior.

### 3. It seeks communion with God

#### Psalm 63:1–8 (NKJV)

- 1 O God, You *are* my God;  
Early will I seek You;  
My soul thirsts for You;  
My flesh longs for You  
In a dry and thirsty land  
Where there is no water.
- 2 So I have looked for You in the sanctuary,  
To see Your power and Your glory.
- 3 Because Your lovingkindness *is* better than life,  
My lips shall praise *You*.
- 4 Thus I will bless You while I live;  
I will lift up my hands in Your name.
- 5 My soul shall be satisfied as with marrow and  
fatness,  
And my mouth shall praise You with joyful lips.
- 6 When I remember You on my bed,  
I meditate on You in the *night* watches.
- 7 Because You have been my help,

Therefore in the shadow of Your wings I will  
rejoice.

- 8 My soul follows close behind You;  
Your right hand upholds me.

Proverbs 8:17 (NKJV)

- 17 I love those who love me,  
And those who seek me diligently will find me.

Psalms 84:2–4 (NKJV)

- 2 My soul longs, yes, even faints  
For the courts of the Lord;  
My heart and my flesh cry out for the living God.
- 3 Even the sparrow has found a home,  
And the swallow a nest for herself,  
Where she may lay her young—  
*Even Your altars, O Lord of hosts,*  
My King and my God.
- 4 Blessed *are* those who dwell in Your house;  
They will still be praising You.

The man who loves God seeks to be with Him as a  
Newly married couple can't stand to be apart. So the  
man who loves God loves to be with Him.

Sadly there are many who say they love God but they don't have that passion. They are content not to think of Him until Sunday. But the rest of the week are filled with the cares of this life and the cares of the world.

And there are many who have a Sunday Religion but not a genuine Love for God.

Theirs is a religion of convenience.

If it doesn't cost me or if it does not affect my schedule or if it is not too difficult I will spend some time with God. (which usually means a church attendance a few times a month if that)

There is no real passion for God, no real drive to have communion with him. You can take it or leave it. And if it is missed, its no big deal.

If thats you, you have no love for God and you are lost and still in your sins.

When you truly Love God....

You will love the things God Loves and you will hate the things God hates.

## **1. You will Love His Word**

Psalm 119:97 (NKJV)

<sup>97</sup> Oh, how I love Your law!

It *is* my meditation all the day.

Psalm 119:72 (NKJV)

<sup>72</sup> The law of Your mouth *is* better to me  
Than thousands of *coins of* gold and silver.

Psalm 119:103–104 (NKJV)

<sup>103</sup> How sweet are Your words to my taste,  
*Sweeter* than honey to my mouth!  
<sup>104</sup> Through Your precepts I get understanding;  
Therefore I hate every false way.

Psalm 119:113 (NKJV)

<sup>113</sup> I hate the double-minded,  
But I love Your law.

## 2. You will Love the ones He loves

1 John 2:10 (NKJV)

<sup>10</sup> He who loves his brother abides in the light, and  
there is no cause for stumbling in him.

1 John 3:14 (NKJV)

<sup>14</sup> We know that we have passed from death to life,  
because we love the brethren. He who does not love  
*his* brother abides in death.

The one who loves truly loves God also loves other believers. Not just your own family. And not just a sermon.

You love other Christians.

### **3. You will love His return.**

#### **2 Timothy 4:8 (NKJV)**

<sup>8</sup> Finally, there is laid up for me the crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous Judge, will give to me on that Day, and not to me only but also to all who have loved His appearing.

You will Hate What God hates

You will not love the World or the things in the world

You will grieve over sin and evil in your own life and the world.

This Promise is only for the believers. The Recipients are only the saved.

They are characterized as

1. The ones who are lovers of God
2. The ones that are being called by God.

**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.

ΤΟΙΣ ΚΑΤΑ ΠΡΟΘΕΣΙΝ ΚΛΗΤΟΙΣ ΟΥΣΙΝ

literally — the ones being called, or those who are being called. i.e. the called ones.

**klétos:** called

**Original Word:** κλητός, ή, όν

**Part of Speech:** Adjective

**Transliteration:** klétos

**Phonetic Spelling:** (klay-tos')

**Definition:** called

**Usage:** called, invited, summoned by God to an office or to salvation.

Cognate: 2822 klētós – literally, "called" (derived from 2564/kaleō, "to call, summon"). See 2821 (klēsis).

**summoned** adj. — denoting someone whose participation or presence has been officially



requested (for something); especially a request to which refusal is not an option.

Some refer to the calling as just a general calling or more like an invitations to be accepted or discarded. They take the passage below and apply it to every other use in the Bible

## Matthew 22:1–14<sub>(NKJV)</sub>

### ***Parable of the Marriage Feast***

**22** And Jesus answered and spoke to them again by parables and said: <sup>2</sup>“The kingdom of heaven is like a certain king who arranged a marriage for his son, <sup>3</sup> and sent out his servants to call those who were invited to the wedding; and they were not willing to come. <sup>4</sup> Again, he sent out other servants, saying, ‘Tell those who are invited, “See, I have prepared my dinner; my oxen and fatted cattle *are* killed, and all things *are* ready. Come to the wedding.” ’ <sup>5</sup> But they made light of it and went their ways, one to his own farm, another to his business. <sup>6</sup> And the rest seized his servants, treated *them* spitefully, and killed *them*. <sup>7</sup> But when the king heard *about it*, he was furious. And he sent out his armies, destroyed those murderers, and burned up their city. <sup>8</sup> Then he said to his servants, ‘The wedding is ready, but those who were invited were not worthy. <sup>9</sup> Therefore go into the highways, and as many as you find, invite to the wedding.’ <sup>10</sup> So those servants went out into the highways and gathered together all whom they found, both bad and good. And the wedding *hall* was filled with guests.

<sup>11</sup> “But when the king came in to see the guests, he saw a man there who did not have on a wedding garment. <sup>12</sup> So he said to him, ‘Friend, how did you come in here without a wedding garment?’ And he was speechless. <sup>13</sup> Then the king said to the servants, ‘Bind him hand and foot, take him away, and cast *him* into outer darkness; there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.’

<sup>14</sup> “For many are called, but few *are* chosen.”

But this is not the primary use of the word called in the New Testament.

All the other users in the Epistles are a reference to a Divine Summons, An efficacious calling or a calling that accomplishes its intended purpose.

There is a general call that is external. It goes to everyone who hears the gospel.

But this one in Romans 8 is an specific, exclusive internal call the God has of the elect.

The Predestined, the chosen ones.

It is the same as John 6

John 6:37 (NKJV)

<sup>37</sup> All that the Father gives Me will come to Me, and the one who comes to Me I will by no means cast out.

John 6:44 (NKJV)

<sup>44</sup> No one can come to Me unless the Father who sent Me draws him; and I will raise him up at the last day.

John 6:64–65 (NKJV)

<sup>64</sup> But there are some of you who do not believe.”

For Jesus knew from the beginning who they were who did not believe, and who would betray Him.

<sup>65</sup> And He said, “Therefore I have said to you that no one can come to Me unless it has been granted to him by My Father.”

This is a calling that is not refused nor does it fail

Romans 8:30 (NKJV)

<sup>30</sup> Moreover whom He predestined, these He also called; whom He called, these He also justified; and whom He justified, these He also glorified.

If this is a general refusable call, then all are justified, then you have universal salvation, or every time invitation is made to come to Christ, then all the ones who heard are saved. Obviously this is not the case.

It is all thru the NT

Romans 1:1 (NKJV)

**1** Paul, a bondservant of Jesus Christ, called *to be* an apostle, separated to the gospel of God

Romans 1:6–7 (NKJV)

<sup>6</sup> among whom you also are the called of Jesus Christ;

<sup>7</sup> To all who are in Rome, beloved of God, called *to be* saints:

Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

1 Corinthians 1:1–2 (NKJV)

**1** Paul, called *to be* an apostle of Jesus Christ through the will of God, and Sosthenes *our* brother,

<sup>2</sup> To the church of God which is at Corinth, to those who are sanctified in Christ Jesus, called *to be* saints,

1 Corinthians 1:21–24 (NKJV)

<sup>21</sup> For since, in the wisdom of God, the world through wisdom did not know God, it pleased God through the foolishness of the message preached to save those who believe. <sup>22</sup> For Jews request a sign, and Greeks seek after wisdom; <sup>23</sup> but we preach Christ crucified, to the Jews a stumbling block and to the Greeks foolishness, <sup>24</sup> but to those who are called, both Jews and Greeks, Christ the power of God and the wisdom of God.

Romans 9:11 (NKJV)

<sup>11</sup> (for *the children* not yet being born, nor having done any good or evil, that the purpose of God

according to election might stand, not of works but of Him who calls),

Romans 9:22–24 (NKJV)

<sup>22</sup> What if God, wanting to show *His* wrath and to make His power known, endured with much longsuffering the vessels of wrath prepared for destruction, <sup>23</sup> and that He might make known the riches of His glory on the vessels of mercy, which He had prepared beforehand for glory, <sup>24</sup> *even* us whom He called, not of the Jews only, but also of the Gentiles?

2 Thessalonians 2:13–14 (NKJV)

<sup>13</sup> 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, <sup>14</sup> to which He called you by our gospel, for the obtaining of the glory of our Lord Jesus Christ.

Hebrews 3:1 (NKJV)

**3** Therefore, holy brethren, partakers of the heavenly calling, consider the Apostle and High Priest of our confession, Christ Jesus,

## 1 Peter 1:15 (NKJV)

<sup>15</sup> but as He who called you *is* holy, you also be holy in all *your* conduct,

## Jude 1 (NKJV)

<sup>1</sup> Jude, a bondservant of Jesus Christ, and brother of James,

To those who are called, sanctified by God the Father, and preserved in Jesus Christ:

## Revelation 17:14 (NKJV)

<sup>14</sup> These will make war with the Lamb, and the Lamb will overcome them, for He is Lord of lords and King of kings; and those *who are* with Him *are* called, chosen, and faithful.”

## 2 Timothy 1:9 (NKJV)

<sup>9</sup> who has saved us and called *us* with a holy calling, not according to our works, but according to His own purpose and grace which was given to us in Christ Jesus before time began,

1. The Reality of this Promise
2. The Recipients of this Promise

### 3. The Reason of this Promise

**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.

κατα προθεσιν κλητοις ουσιν

**prothesis: a setting forth, i.e. fig. proposal, spec. the showbread, sacred (bread)**

**Original Word:** πρόθεσις, εως, ἡ

**Part of Speech:** Noun, Feminine

**Transliteration:** prothesis

**Phonetic Spelling:** (proth'-es-is)

**Definition:** a setting forth, proposal, the showbread, sacred (bread)

**Usage:** a setting forth, the show-bread; predetermination, purpose.

4286 próthesis (from 4253 /pró, "before" and 5087 /títhēmi, "purposefully set forth") – properly, providence – literally, "a setting forth in advance for a specific purpose ("God's pre-thesis").

**purpose (intention) n.** — an anticipated outcome that is intended or that guides planned actions.

### Romans 9:11 (NKJV)

<sup>11</sup> (for *the children* not yet being born, nor having done any good or evil, that the purpose of God according to election might stand, not of works but of Him who calls),

### 2 Timothy 1:9 (NKJV)

<sup>9</sup> who has saved us and called *us* with a holy calling, not according to our works, but according to His own purpose and grace which was given to us in Christ Jesus before time began,

### Romans 9:17–18 (NKJV)

<sup>17</sup> For the Scripture says to the Pharaoh, “*For this very purpose I have raised you up, that I may show My power in you, and that My name may be declared in all the earth.*” <sup>18</sup> Therefore He has mercy on whom He wills, and whom He wills He hardens.

### Romans 9:22–23 (NKJV)

<sup>22</sup> What if God, wanting to show *His* wrath and to make His power known, endured with much longsuffering the vessels of wrath prepared for destruction, <sup>23</sup> and that He might make known the riches of His glory on the vessels of mercy, which He had prepared beforehand for glory,



Ephesians 1:9 (NKJV)

<sup>9</sup> having made known to us the mystery of His will, according to His good pleasure which He purposed in Himself,

Ephesians 1:11 (NKJV)

<sup>11</sup> In Him also we have obtained an inheritance, being predestined according to the purpose of Him who works all things according to the counsel of His will,

Ephesians 3:8–11 (NKJV)

<sup>8</sup> To me, who am less than the least of all the saints, this grace was given, that I should preach among the Gentiles the unsearchable riches of Christ, <sup>9</sup> and to make all see what *is* the fellowship of the mystery, which from the beginning of the ages has been hidden in God who created all things through Jesus Christ; <sup>10</sup> to the intent that now the manifold wisdom of God might be made known by the church to the principalities and powers in the heavenly *places*, <sup>11</sup> according to the eternal purpose which He accomplished in Christ Jesus our Lord,

In Romans 8:28, however, Paul is speaking of the narrower, restricted meaning of God's **purpose**,

namely, His divine plan to save those whom He has called and “predestined to become conformed to the image of His Son” (v. 29). The focus is on God’s sovereign plan of redemption, which He ordained before the foundation of the earth.

While Israel was still wandering in the desert of Sinai, Moses told them,

“The Lord did not set His love on you nor choose you because you were more in number than any of the peoples, for you were the fewest of all peoples, but because the Lord loved you and kept the oath which He swore to your forefathers, the Lord brought you out by a mighty hand, and redeemed you from the house of slavery, from the hand of Pharaoh king of Egypt” (Deut. 7:7–8). The Jews were not chosen because of who they were but because of who God is. The same is true of God’s choosing believers. He chooses solely on the basis of His divine will and **purpose**.

Isaiah wrote,

“For I am God, and there is no other; I am God, and there is no one like Me, declaring the end from the beginning and from ancient times things which have not been done, saying, ‘My purpose will be established, and I will accomplish all My good pleasure’; calling a bird of prey from the east, the man of My purpose from a far country. Truly I have

spoken; truly I will bring it to pass. I have planned it, surely I will do it” (Isa. 46:9b–11).

John wrote of Jesus,

“But as many as received Him, to them He gave the right to become children of God, even to those who believe in His name, who were born not of blood, nor of the will of the flesh, nor of the will of man, but of God” (John 1:12–13).

MacArthur, J. F., Jr. (1991). [Romans](#) (Vol. 1, pp. 487–488). Chicago: Moody Press.