

Sermon Series: Romans

Sermon Text: Romans 8:28-29 All for the Firstborn

For the glory of Christ God predestined us to work for good in all things.

1) God works with chosen instruments.

- a) God Works With (dative of association):
 - i) *sunergeo*=work with
 - ii) 1 Cor. 3:9 “we are God’s fellow workers”
 - iii) 2 Cor. 6:1 “Working together with Him, then, we appeal to you”
- b) Chosen Instruments:
 - i) Foreknew
 - (1) not mere information gathering through foresight; but paternal acknowledgement/love without consideration of merit
 - (2) Amos 3:2 “You only have I known of all the families of the earth.”
 - (3) Romans 9:10-13 “. . . though they were not yet born and had done nothing either good or bad—in order that God’s purpose of election might continue, not because of works but because of him who calls— . . . Jacob I loved, but Esau I hated.”
 - ii) Predestined
 - (1) to appoint the end or goal before the beginning
 - (2) “to be conformed to the image of His Son”
 - (a) “image” recalls the creation of humanity in the “image of God” (Gen. 1:27) with the dominion mandate
 - (b) “His Son” recalls the exaltation of Christ in power/authority (Rom. 1:4; cf. Phil. 3:21 “the Lord Jesus Christ will transform our lowly body to be like His glorious body, by the power that enables Him even to subject all things to Himself.”)
 - iii) Called
 - (1) the irresistible summons of the gospel
 - (2) “according to purpose”
 - (a) “adoption as sons, the redemption of our bodies” (8:23)
 - (b) “the creation itself will be set free from its bondage to corruption” (8:21)
 - iv) Those Who Love God:
 - (1) Transformed by God’s love (1 John 4:19)
 - (2) Love for God is chief character of conformity to His Son.
 - (3) Love for God is the power with which God works in us for the good.
- c) **Application:**
 - i) In Christ you are God’s chosen instrument to serve His purpose.
 - ii) Your love for God is the outworking of His calling that will accomplish His purpose through you.

2) God works for good in all things.

- a) All Things
 - i) The whole groaning creation presently suffering corruption (8:19-22)

- ii) The suffering of Christians (8:35-39)
- b) Good
 - i) Humanity restored in Christ as vassal kings under God's reign
 - ii) Creation restored under the rule of humanity in Christ
 - iii) Christ glorified as the Firstborn among many brothers
- c) **Application:** The Dominion Mandate Renewed
 - i) Love God in the mission of making disciples of the nations (Matthew 28:18-20).
 - ii) Love God in the execution of your vocation (Gen. 1:28; 2:15; 9:1-7; Prov. 3:5-6).
 - iii) Love God in your formation of culture (Psalm 150:6; Rev. 21:24-27).
 - iv) Love God in your civic duties (Luke 20:25).

Doxology: Let everything that has breath praise the LORD! Praise the LORD! (Psalm 150:6)