**It is God who Justifies**

**by Pastor Fee Soliven**

**Romans 8:29-34**

**Wednesday Evening**

**August 28, 2024**

**Romans 8:29-34**

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

31 What then shall we say to these things? If God is for us, who can be against us? 32 He who did not spare His own Son, but delivered Him up for us all, how shall He not with Him also freely give us all things? 33 Who shall bring a charge against God's elect? It is God who justifies. 34 Who is he who condemns? It is Christ who died, and furthermore is also risen, who is even at the right hand of God, who also makes intercession for us.

**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.**

Saints, believers are those people whom God knew in advance. God’s foreknowledge refers to his intimate knowledge of us and our relationship with him based on his choosing us.

**Ephesians 1:7-14**

7 In Him we have redemption through His blood, the forgiveness of sins, according to the riches of His grace 8 which He made to abound toward us in all wisdom and prudence, 9 having made known to us the mystery of His will, according to His good pleasure which He purposed in Himself,

10 that in the dispensation of the fullness of the times He might gather together in one all things in Christ, both which are in heaven and which are on earth--in Him. 11 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,

12 that we who first trusted in Christ should be to the praise of His glory. 13 In Him you also trusted, after you heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation; in whom also, having believed, you were sealed with the Holy Spirit of promise, 14 who is the guarantee of our inheritance until the redemption of the purchased possession, to the praise of His glory.

Saints, God chose believers to reach a particular goal: to become like his Son.

When all believers are conformed to Christ’s likeness, the resurrected Christ will be the firstborn of a new race of humans, who are purified from sin.

Because we are God’s children, we are Christ’s brothers and sisters.

What does it mean to be chosen? What keeps foreknowledge and predestination from being determinism?

**How can belief in predestination avoid leading someone to despair over the futility of any human choice?**

God’s foreknowledge does not imply determinism—the idea that all our choices are predetermined.

Since God is not limited by time as we are, he “sees” past, present, and future at the same time.

Parents sometimes “know” how their children will behave before the fact.

We don’t conclude from these parents’ foreknowledge that they made their children act that way.

God’s foreknowledge, insofar as we can understand it, means that God knows who will accept the offer of salvation.

The plan of predestination begins when we trust Christ and comes to its conclusion when we become fully like him.

Receiving an airline ticket to Chicago means we have been predestined to arrive in Chicago.

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

Saints, to explain foreknowledge and predestination in any way that implies that every action and choice we make has been not only pre-known,

but even predetermined, seems to contradict those Scriptures that declare that our choices are real, that they matter, and that there are consequences to the choices we make.

What is clear is that God’s purpose for human beings was not an afterthought; it was settled before the foundation of the world.

Humankind is to serve and honor God. If we have trusted Christ as Savior, we can rejoice that God has always known us.

**John 17:22**

And the glory which You gave Me I have given them, that they may be one just as We are one…

His love is eternal. His wisdom and power are supreme.

He will guide and protect us until we one day stand in his presence.

**1 Corinthians 1:9**

God is faithful, by whom you were called into the fellowship of His Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

God’s plan for the salvation of those who believe in Christ has three steps: chosen, called, and glorified. When we are finally conformed to the image of Christ, we will share his glory.

**31 What then shall we say to these things? If God is for us, who can be against us?**

Saints, Satan and those under his power are against us, but in the end, God promises the victory.

**Psalm 91:1-6**

1 He who dwells in the secret place of the Most High Shall abide under the shadow of the Almighty. 2 I will say of the LORD, "He is my refuge and my fortress; My God, in Him I will trust." 3 Surely He shall deliver you from the snare of the fowler And from the perilous pestilence.

4 He shall cover you with His feathers, And under His wings you shall take refuge; His truth shall be your shield and buckler. 5 You shall not be afraid of the terror by night, Nor of the arrow that flies by day, 6 Nor of the pestilence that walks in darkness, Nor of the destruction that lays waste at noonday.

How much is God for us? So much that he did not spare even his own Son but gave him up for us all.

Our major struggle with prayer is not that God doesn’t answer. What upsets us is that he seldom answers in line with our plans or schedule.

At those times we may think that God is intentionally withholding something from us.

**32 He who did not spare His own Son, but delivered Him up for us all, how shall He not with Him also freely give us all things?**

Saints, but God has already given us the greatest gift of all. Remembering God’s gift will help us see that God is working for our good even when we can’t immediately see it.

**John 3:16-21**

16 For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life. 17 For God did not send His Son into the world to condemn the world, but that the world through Him might be saved.

18 He who believes in Him is not condemned; but he who does not believe is condemned already, because he has not believed in the name of the only begotten Son of God. 19 And this is the condemnation, that the light has come into the world, and men loved darkness rather than light, because their deeds were evil.

20 For everyone practicing evil hates the light and does not come to the light, lest his deeds should be exposed. 21 But he who does the truth comes to the light, that his deeds may be clearly seen, that they have been done in God."

God sacrificed his Son to save us; will he now invalidate that sacrifice by refusing to help and guide believers? No,

instead, he promises to give us everything else to bring us to the ultimate goal—our sanctification and glorification.

**33 Who shall bring a charge against God's elect? It is God who justifies.**

Saints, if God did not withhold his Son, and if God will give us everything to make us complete, will God then accuse us?

Paul’s emphatic answer is no! God is the one who has given us right standing with himself, and he is also the Judge who has already declared us “not guilty.”

**1. Justification comes apart from the law; that is, we cannot earn justification through rule-keeping or our own good works.**

**2. Justification is made possible in the sacrificial death of Christ; it is based on the shed blood of Christ.**

**3. Justification is the free and gracious gift of God bestowed on those who receive by faith the sacrifice of Jesus Christ.**

**4. Justification demonstrates the righteousness of God.**

**34 Who is he who condemns? It is Christ who died, and furthermore is also risen, who is even at the right hand of God, who also makes intercession for us.**

Saints, so who then will condemn us? Will it be Jesus—for we surely have offended him.

But no, it won’t be him for he is the one who died for us. To condemn us would then make his death of no value.

Jesus would not condemn those for whom he died. Instead, Jesus, who was raised to life for us is at God’s side pleading for us in heaven.

**Psalm 110:1**

1 The LORD said to my Lord, "Sit at My right hand, Till I make Your enemies Your footstool."

**Mark 12:35-37**

35 Then Jesus answered and said, while He taught in the temple, "How is it that the scribes say that the Christ is the Son of David? 36 For David himself said by the Holy Spirit: 'The LORD said to my Lord, "Sit at My right hand, Till I make Your enemies Your footstool." ' 37 "Therefore David himself calls Him 'Lord'; how is He then his Son?" And the common people heard Him gladly.

**Hebrews 4:14-16**

14 Seeing then that we have a great High Priest who has passed through the heavens, Jesus the Son of God, let us hold fast our confession. 15 For we do not have a High Priest who cannot sympathize with our weaknesses, but was in all points tempted as we are, yet without sin. 16 Let us therefore come boldly to the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy and find grace to help in time of need.

The Spirit intercedes for us and Christ intercedes for us. How much more advocacy do we need?

Soon and Very soon, Jesus is about to appear, we are almost out of here!

**1 Thessalonians 4:13-18**

13 But I do not want you to be ignorant, brethren, concerning those who have fallen asleep, lest you sorrow as others who have no hope. 14 For if we believe that Jesus died and rose again, even so God will bring with Him those who sleep in Jesus.

15 For this we say to you by the word of the Lord, that we who are alive and remain until the coming of the Lord will by no means precede those who are asleep. 16 For the Lord Himself will descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of an archangel, and with the trumpet of God. And the dead in Christ will rise first.

17 Then we who are alive and remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air. And thus we shall always be with the Lord. 18 Therefore comfort one another with these words.

**1 Corinthians 15:50-54**

50 Now this I say, brethren, that flesh and blood cannot inherit the kingdom of God; nor does corruption inherit incorruption. 51 Behold, I tell you a mystery: We shall not all sleep, but we shall all be changed-- 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. 54 So when this corruptible has put on incorruption, and this mortal has put on immortality, then shall be brought to pass the saying that is written: "Death is swallowed up in victory."

**Short Movie Slide>**

**Acts 2:38-39**

38 Then Peter said to them, "Repent, and let every one of you be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins; and you shall receive the gift of the Holy Spirit. 39 For the promise is to you and to your children, and to all who are afar off, as many as the Lord our God will call."

**Let’s Pray!**

**Benediction**

**"May The LORD bless you and keep you, May The LORD make His face shine upon you, May The LORD be gracious to you, May The LORD lift up His countenance upon you, and give you His (Shalom) peace!**