

# Salvation: God's Love Forever

Bethany Bible Church, Adult Sunday School Class, October 27, 2013

## Salvation's Impact in Daily Trials . . .

We come to a close of our study of the amazing doctrine of salvation--only this morning; and hopefully not for good--with a look at a seventh 'wonder'. And it seems like the perfect one to close our study with, because it highlights the every-day, practical value of what we have come to learn about our salvation in Jesus Christ. It's that the eternal realities of our salvation have a very direct impact on our daily troubles and trials.

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When we first started our study, we considered one of the most important passages we can know with regard to our salvation--and that is Romans 8:28-30. From that passage, we learned that God has an ultimate plan for those He loves (v. 28), and that this plan is worked out in an orderly way (vv. 29-30)--that is, in accordance with His divine foreknowledge, and in fulfillment of His gracious predestination of those He chooses so as to call them to Himself in Christ, justify them in His sight through Jesus' blood, and ultimately to perfect them as sharers of Jesus' own eternal glory forever.

That passage says,

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

But what a great assurance that passage also gives us with respect to the daily matters of life! The same God who has an ultimate and eternal plan for those He loves also so rules over the daily details of life that "all things" truly do work out for our good! Consider how our salvation means that . . .

### I. THE SOVEREIGN GOD RULES EVERY DETAIL OF OUR LIVES.

- A. God is absolute ruler over every aspect of His creation. He didn't simply start things and then sit and watched how they turned out--responding to them along the way. Rather, as Acts 15:18 says, "Known to God from eternity are all His works." He established what He purposed from the beginning, and then providentially brought about perfectly all that He purposed. And this includes every aspect of whatever concerns us as His redeemed people. We're told that the work of Christ our Savior was "foreordained before the foundation of the world" (1 Peter 1:20); and that the Father chose the redeemed in Christ "before the foundation of the world" (Ephesians 1:4).
- B. And this means that the same God who has graciously purposes our salvation in future glory also exercises sovereignty over every detail of every day on our journey along the way there! We can affirm, in praise to God, that "in Your book they all were written, the days fashioned for me, when as yet there were none of them" (Psalm 139:16). Every day is written in advance for us by our loving Father--even what we think of as the 'bad' days. In fact, there really *are* no 'bad days', because every aspect

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of every day is always superintended by God in such a way as to bring about our good. As Paul put it, "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 1:11). We rejoice that "we are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand that we should walk in them" (Ephesians 2:10). We can put this glorious truth into practice by doing exactly what it says in 2 Thessalonians 5:18--"in everything give thanks; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you."

## **II. WE HAVE FREEDOM TO BRING EVERY TROUBLE TO GOD.**

- A. Because of Jesus' work on our behalf, the enmity between God and us has been completely and forever removed. We are now free to bring every trouble and every concern we can ever have in life to the almighty, sovereign God of the Universe. As Paul wrote, "Be anxious for nothing, but in everything by prayer and supplication, with thanksgiving, let your requests be made known to God; and the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus" (Philippians 4:6-7).
- B. This is never an imposition on Him, because we are now His adopted children through Christ. He is our Father, and He is deeply concerned for us. We're invited to come--"casting all your care upon Him, for He cares for you" (1 Peter 5:7). Jesus invites us, "Come to Me, all you who labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest" (Matthew 11:28). With respect to our salvation and in our position of favor in God's grace, Jesus says, "In that day you will ask in My name, and I do not say to you that I shall pray the Father for you; for the Father Himself loves you, because you have loved Me, and have believed that I came forth from God" (John 16:26-27). Just as we affirmed that there are no 'bad days' for those who are in God's favor, we can also say that there really are no such things as 'troubles' for us who are the children of God through Christ. Troubles only remain 'troubles' until they are brought to our good Father in prayer.

## **III. NO FAILURE CAN EVER THWART GOD'S PURPOSE FOR US.**

- A. God has His protective hand upon us in terms of the things that might tempt us. 1 Corinthians 10:13 says, "No temptation has overtaken you except such as is common to man; but God is faithful, who will not allow you to be tempted beyond what you are able, but with the temptation will also make the way of escape, that you may be able to bear it." God never permits anything to come upon us but what we can bear through reliance on His help. We will, however, fail in our walk with Jesus--many times! But the glorious thing is that not even our own failures can ever prove fatal to God's ultimate plan for our good. "If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness" (1 John 1:9)--as we affirm that "The Lord will perfect that which concerns me" (Psalm 138:8).
- B. This means that we can freely come to Him when we've failed--even when we have failed greatly--seek His gracious forgiveness, and rejoice that our destiny in Christ is still secure; "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). We ought never presume, of course, that we can 'sin' in order to advance God's purposes. But even when we fail, we can know that our sovereign Savior even uses those failures to accomplish His good purposes for us. Paul was able to affirm that God used his past sins for His glory; saying, "And I thank Christ Jesus our Lord who has enabled

me, because He counted me faithful, putting me into the ministry, although I was formerly a blasphemer, a persecutor, and an insolent man; but I obtained mercy because I did it ignorantly in unbelief. And the grace of our Lord was exceedingly abundant, with faith and love which are in Christ Jesus” (1 Timothy 1:12-14). And if God can make even sins committed in wicked rebellion against Him by evil people turn out for good--as Joseph told his brothers, “you meant evil against me; but God meant it for good” (Genesis 50:20)--then He can certainly make the failures of His beloved children work out for good too.

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So; Romans 8:28-30 assures us of the completion of our full salvation in spite of life’s trials. But it also affirms that our great salvation has an impact on our daily trials--one that assures us a daily experience of victory in Christ. This is even more clear as we read on in Romans 8:31-39:

*What then shall we say to these things? If God is for us, who can be against us? 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? Who shall bring a charge against God’s elect? It is God who justifies. 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. Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? Shall tribulation, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or peril, or sword? As it is written:*

*“For Your sake we are killed all day long;  
We are accounted as sheep for the slaughter.”*

*Yet in all these things we are more than conquerors through Him who loved us. For I am persuaded that neither death nor life, nor angels nor principalities nor powers, nor things present nor things to come, nor height nor depth, nor any other created thing, shall be able to separate us from the love of God which is in Christ Jesus our Lord.*

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<sup>1</sup>Unless otherwise noted, all Scripture references are taken from The Holy Bible, New King James Version; copyright 1982, Thomas Nelson, Inc.