

February 2, 2025

HDBC

The original Extreme Makeover show first aired on December 11, 2002 and ran until July, 2007. It involved a makeover of a person's looks. The team included plastic surgeons, cosmetic dentists, makeup artists, stylists and personal trainers. The participants had the opportunity to have nose jobs, brow lifts, eye surgery, chin augmentation, lip enhancements, tummy tucks, eye lifts, Botox injections, skin peels and laser treatments.

For 4 ½ years Americans tuned in to watch the amazing transformations that took place in how people looked. But how sad to realize that those makeovers were temporary. They could not change the aging process; they were simply trying to roll back the odometer a few miles. And sadder still that those procedures can do nothing to change the person on the inside. There is however a makeover that is absolutely permanent and in fact does change us on the inside

Referring to the *makeover* that God does in a person's life when they trust Him and choose to give themselves to Him. Romans 8 provides a great summary of this makeover. We've already looked at four things.

It begins with a . . .

Pardon – There is no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus.

It involves a

Tension – A glorious future is promised but we still live in broken world.

It brings with it a . . .

Helper – Holy Spirit never leaves us and helps us to pray

It comes with a deep and abiding

Peace – knowing that God is working all things out **for our good**.

In the verses that follow, Paul gets specific on what the **good** looks like and how it happens. As with all verses in the Bible they must be understood in the context of the verses around them. Verse 28 is best understood in connection with these two following verses.

Read the Text: Romans 8:29-30

Some have called this the Golden chain of salvation. Five major links in the process of our transformation. Each link is perfectly dependable. Our salvation is secure because of 5 great truths which are linked to five great words in these verses. Those words are your outline.

1. Foreknew

The point here is that redemption begins with the foreknowledge of God. If you were to one day ask God to describe the steps that led you to salvation, **it would not begin with a godly pastor, Christian parents, or even a verse in the Bible.** Long before those, you would find that your salvation began in the mind of God. What does it mean?

To know ahead of time. Look into the future and know exactly what will take place. English word built upon the Greek word: **Prognosticate.**

When a doctor tells a patient what to expect with an illness, it is an educated guess called a **prognosis. When the weather man says it will rain, it is an educated guess. Neither are absolute in their predictions.**

God never has to make an educated guess. He knows every detail of your life. All that you will do tomorrow even before you do it.

But the word means more than **knowing ahead of time.** **In the OT it carried the idea of a loving relationship.** Long before you were ever born, God loved you and chose to have a loving relationship with you. The Greek word is a word that speaks of a relationship knowledge. A knowledge that comes from an intimate connection.

2. Predestined

1) **Definition** - Marking out a boundary beforehand.

The effective exercise of the will of God by which things before determined by Him are brought to pass.

God has determined that certain things will come to pass, and they will. What is it that God has pre-determined will happen? First let me lay to rest some false assumptions.

2) **False Assumptions**

Some hear the word and go into cardiac arrest. They have certain image of what predestination means, and it scares them. Two things it does not mean.

1. **We are puppets**

Like the original Pinocchio, we can only do what our creator causes us to do. Every action, word, thought, deed is mechanically dictated by God. NOT TRUE

2. **God wants some people to go to Hell**

1 Timothy 2:3-6 says *God desires all men to be saved and to come to the knowledge of the truth.*

2 Peter 3:9, *God is not willing that any should perish, but that all should come to repentance.*

Keep Two Truths in Mind:

No one will be in Hell who does not deserve to be there.

No one will be in Heaven who does deserve to be there.

3) **Meaning**

The focus of this predestination is primarily about the spiritual growth of those who are saved. It involves initial salvation, but adds more.

He has predetermined that those who are saved will become conformed to the image of Jesus Christ. In other words, He will make sure that every believer ultimately takes on the characteristics of Jesus Christ. Ultimate fulfillment of that will happen when He comes again. 1 John 3:2

Beloved, now we are children of God, and it has not appeared as yet what we will be. We know that when He appears, we will be like Him, because we will see Him just as He is.

The point is that **God is going to complete the job** which He begins at salvation. No one who is legitimately saved, will fail to be brought in line with God's purpose. And His purpose is that we become more and more like Jesus. React like he reacted. Speak the way He spoke. Live the way He lived. A process by which God is transforming us day by day.

But there is more to His purpose:

That Christ will have many brothers and sisters adopted into His family. **First born does not speak of chronological order**, but of **preeminence and position**. He is the elevated one; the most important one.

3. Called

Legal word - **official summons to appear in court**. When the Gospel is revealed it is an official summons to come to God. In this case it refers not to a general proclamation of the gospel but the specific work of the Holy Spirit in the heart of a particular person.

It is *the act of God whereby the Holy Spirit reveals to a lost person his spiritual condition and offers life and hope through Jesus*. It is an invitation. The point is that God is the one initiating the contact. He is the one who begins the process of salvation. **It is the work of the Holy Spirit** in a person's life that leads them to saving knowledge of Christ, including repentance and faith.

It comes through personal witness, the preached word, circumstances, the Bible, etc. The Holy Spirit may use a variety of things to get your attention and call. But when He calls, the person is wise to respond. You have no idea how many times that call may come?

4. Justified

1) The Meaning

God's declaration of righteousness to those who have trusted in Christ. More than forgiveness. More than a pardon. It is placing on my account the goodness and righteousness of Christ. Making the believer just as righteous as Christ.

2) The Basis (Romans 5:9)

Much more then, having now been justified by His blood, we shall be saved from the wrath of God through Him.

Through the blood of Jesus Christ. He paid our debt and gave us His righteousness. **When Billy Graham was a young college student, a professor said to him, *young man, you have a great gift for communicating, and good looks. You could be an effective speaker, but downplay this blood stuff.* Billy Graham said he determined that day to preach more and more on the blood.**

5. Glorified

Refers to our time in Heaven, which means the completion of our salvation. When we have new bodies, new minds, new hearts. We live in a new home and have a completely new experience that is not tainted by sin.

Past tense. So certain that it could be spoken of in the past tense though not yet experienced by us. In the mind of God it is a done deal. Nothing can break this golden chain of salvation, this process of God.

Not presented as five separate events, but as five links in the chain of salvation. Each one builds upon the one which goes before it and results in the one which comes after it. The point is that there is no possibility of a break in the chain.

When you get to Heaven and look back at your salvation you will find that you are in Heaven **because of the unbreakable link between these five things.**

He **knew** you and already had an intimate relationship with you.

He **predestined** you to become like Jesus.

He **called** you to be saved.

He **Justified** you, forgiving your sin and declaring you to be righteous.

He **Glorified** you, by completing your transformation for Heaven,

All this means nothing, if you miss Heaven.

It is worthless information, unless you are willing to act upon these truths.

Is He calling you today?

If so, your responsibility is to respond in faith.

It's difficult for many people to accept that there can be only one way to rescue us from sin and judgement. But a Christian apologist uses the following analogies to show how the cross of Christ is the one and only solution we need:

Most ailments need particular antidotes. Increasing the air pressure in your tires will not fix a troubled carburetor. Aspirin will not dissolve a tumor. Cutting up credit cards will not wipe out debt that is already owed. If your water pipes are leaking, you call a plumber, not an oncologist, but a plumber will not cure a cancer.

Any adequate solution must solve the problem that needs to be solved, and singular problems need singular solutions. Some antidotes are one-of-a-kind cures for one-of-a-kind ailments. Sometimes only one medicine will do the job, as much as we may like it to be otherwise.

Mankind faces a singular problem. People are broken and the world is broken because our friendship with God has been broken, ruined by human rebellion. Humans, you and I—are guilty, lost, and condemned. All of us. Everyone. Everywhere. The guilt must be punished, the debt must be paid.

Promising better conduct in the future will not mend the crimes of the past. No, a rescuer must ransom the slaves, a kindred brother must pay the family debt, a substitute must shoulder the guilt. There is no other way of escape.

Jesus has done just that.