

The Potter's Christian Life Center

SERMON NOTES
with Pastor Greg Formey



You Are Called

Romans 8:30

Sunday, August 2, 2026

Have you ever received a phone call that changed the entire direction of your life? Maybe it was a call offering you a dream job. Maybe it was a call from a doctor with unexpected news. Or maybe it was a call from someone you love. A single, significant call has the power to shift your entire reality.

Consider the most important call a human being can ever receive. In Romans 8:30, Paul says: **"And those whom he predestined he also called, and those whom he called he also justified, and those whom he justified he also glorified."** This is an exploration of the all-important idea of what it truly means to be called by God.

Romans 8:28-30 shows us that salvation is a divinely orchestrated continuum. It starts in eternity past and ends in eternity future:

- **Foreknew:** He deeply knew and loved us first.
- **Predestined:** He drew a map for our lives, planning for us to become like His Son, Jesus.
- **Called:** He invited us into His family.
- **Justified:** He declared us "not guilty" in His heavenly courtroom.
- **Glorified:** He guarantees our future in eternity.

Right in the middle of this is the "Call." It is the powerful bridge between God's eternal plan in the past and our glorious reality in the future.

WHAT DOES IT MEAN TO BE "CALLED"?

If we want to understand Paul, we must think like a person from the first century. We should look at the original Greek and Hebrew words. In Romans 8:30, the Greek word for "called" is very personal - God calls you by name.

Think about the mail you receive every day. Most of it is junk mail addressed to "Current Resident." It is a general broadcast sent to everyone in the neighborhood. You throw it away without a second thought. But occasionally, you receive a sealed envelope with your name handwritten on it, such as an RSVP for a wedding or an exclusive event.

God calls out your specific name. He speaks directly to your heart, waking you up from spiritual death. It is a royal invitation from the King of the Universe to step out of darkness and take your seat at His family table.

THE PURPOSE OF THE CALL

When God calls our names, what exactly is He calling us to?

If we look back just one verse to **Romans 8:29**, Paul says we are predestined **"to be conformed to the image of his Son."** The Greek word for image is *Eikon*, bringing to mind a word we often use today - "icon," which speaks of a symbol or picture used to represent something similar and significantly more important than itself.

You were created to be an eikon of and for Jesus Christ. The ultimate goal of your life is to look, act, and love just like Him. God does not call you just so you can have an easy life. He calls you to transform you.

This can call to mind the rescue of a prisoner of war. The soldier is pulled out of a dark, terrible enemy camp by a rescue team. That is the great escape. But the soldier is not instantly sitting safely in his living room. He must survive a long, hard walk through a dangerous jungle to get home.

When God calls you, He breaks the chains of sin. But He also calls you to walk through the jungle of this life. To get to your final kingdom destination, you must walk through difficulty today. But you never walk alone, because the Spirit leads you to your new life.

THE CERTAINTY OF THE CALL

Because salvation is not only an event, but a process, God's call cannot fail. In Romans 8:30, Paul writes in the past tense: **"those whom he called he also justified, and those whom he justified he also glorified"**. Notice that we are not glorified yet. God promises to give us perfect bodies at the end of the age.

Why does Paul write about our future glory as if it has already happened? Because God's call is so certain, and His power is so profound, that your future in heaven is guaranteed. God's ultimate plan cannot be defeated.

Conclusion

The Creator of the stars and the oceans knows your name. He saw your entire life. He knew every mistake you would make, every tear you would cry, and every joy you would experience. And looking at all of it, He placed His calling on you.

God calls you to drop the heavy burdens you were never meant to carry and to take on the image, of Jesus Christ.

Answer the call; step into His grace, and rest assured knowing that your life rests safely in the hands of the One who knows the end from the beginning.