

ROMANS 8:29-30 HELD BY SOVEREIGN GRACE

Big Idea: Because salvation originates, progresses, and finishes in God's sovereign grace, believers can rest in the certainty that He will complete what He began.

TERMS + DEFINITIONS

God's Sovereignty: God's absolute right and power to rule over all things, always accomplishing His purposes, always doing what is holy, wise, and good. (Psalm 115:3; Psalm 135:6; Isaiah 55:8-9; Romans 9:15-18)

Human Responsibility: People make real choices with real moral accountability before God; the call to repent and believe is genuine, and rejection is culpable. (Joshua 24:15; Deut. 30:19; John 1:12; Romans 10:9-13)

Election: God's gracious choice of a people for Himself in Christ: "chosen" not based on human merit, but God's mercy and purpose. (Greek *eklektos* = "chosen") (Eph. 1:4; Romans 8:33; 1 Thess. 1:4-5; 1 Peter 1:1-2)

Predestination: God's eternal decision to bring His saving purposes to completion for His people: His plan to conform them to Christ and secure their final salvation. (Romans 8:29-30; Ephesians 1:5,11)

Foreknowledge: God's knowing beforehand in a purposeful, personal way: His prior, sovereign knowledge that is never surprised and never passive. (Romans 8:29; 1 Peter 1:1-2)

1. GOD SET HIS LOVE ON US BEFORE WE EVER LOVED HIM (v. 29a)

Key Theological Truth: Salvation begins with God's initiative, not man's response.

- Why is it important to understand that salvation begins with God's initiative rather than ours?
- How does knowing God loved you before you loved Him change your view of your worth and identity?
- What dangers arise when someone believes salvation depends mainly on human effort?

2. GOD IS ACTIVELY SHAPING US TO LOOK LIKE JESUS (v. 29b)

Key Theological Truth: God's plan is not just to forgive sinners, but to also transform them into the likeness of Christ.

- How is God currently shaping you to look more like Christ?
- What is sanctification and why do believers often resist the sanctification process?
- How can viewing hardship as God's shaping tool change the way we endure trials?

3. GOD GUARANTEES OUR FUTURE GLORY THROUGH HIS PERFECT SAVING PLAN (v. 30)

Key Theological Truth: Every person God saves will be fully and finally redeemed.

- How does knowing that God will finish what He starts in you encourage you?
- How does the certainty of glorification strengthen believers during suffering?
- How should assurance of salvation impact daily obedience and evangelism?

Simple Sermon Take-Away: God chose you in eternity, is shaping you in the present, and will perfect you in glory.