

## The Book of Romans

### The Gospel of God

<sup>28</sup>And we know that for those who love God all things work together for good, for those who are called according to *His* purpose.

<sup>29</sup>For whom He foreknew, He also predestined to *become* conformed to the image of His Son, so that He would be the firstborn among many brethren;

<sup>30</sup>and whom He predestined, these He also called; and whom He called, these He also justified; and whom He justified, these He also glorified.

(Romans 8:28-30)

## God's Eternal Purpose

### A. Five Divine Actions ("golden chain")

#### ➤ Observations:

- divine actions – human activity is not in view
- inseparable actions – the exact same people are the objects of each divine action
- completed actions – these actions are wholly and certainly ours in Christ Jesus

## God's Eternal Purpose

### A. Five Divine Actions ("golden chain")

1. "Foreknew" – God *knew* (i.e., loved) us before the foundation of the world
  - not merely that He knew of our faith beforehand
  - "knew" – a distinguishing regard or love for; God "fore-loved" us or "chose" us

## God's Eternal Purpose

### A. Five Divine Actions ("golden chain")

2. "Predestined" – God determined the ultimate destiny of those He foreknew/chose
  - our ultimate destiny is conformity to the Son (our complete "adoption" – Eph. 1:5)

## God's Eternal Purpose

### A. Five Divine Actions ("golden chain")

3. "Called" – God's effectual summoning of us into a relationship with Him
  - through the gospel God calls us irresistibly to faith in Christ

## God's Eternal Purpose

- A. Five Divine Actions ("golden chain")
4. "Justified" – God gave us His saving righteousness through Christ so that we are declared righteous

## God's Eternal Purpose

- A. Five Divine Actions ("golden chain")
5. "Glorified" – God transforms us into the image of the resurrected Christ
    - the necessary, inevitable vindicating action of our justification

## God's Eternal Purpose

- A. Five Divine Actions ("golden chain")
1. Foreknew
  2. Predestined
  3. Called
  4. Justified
  5. Glorified

## God's Eternal Purpose

- B. Eternal Purpose
- that we, adopted sons, will be conformed to the image of the resurrected Son
  - that He, the Son, might become the "first-born" of many brothers, the sons of God