

ROMANS
Our Message to the World
AMEN Bible Study 2015-2016

What We Don't Know and What We Know

Romans 8:26-30

January 28, 2016

8:26, 27 **I. There are some things we don't know.**

cf. Deuteronomy 29:29a

:26 A. We don't know how to pray for ourselves.

²⁶Likewise the Spirit helps us in our weakness. For we do not know what to pray for as we ought, but the Spirit himself intercedes for us with groanings too deep for words.

:27 B. We don't know the secret plans of God.

²⁷And he who searches hearts knows what is the mind of the Spirit, because the Spirit intercedes for the saints according to the will of God.

:28-30 **II. There are some things we know.**

cf. Deuteronomy 29:29b

:28 A. We know all things work together for the good.

²⁸And we know that for those who love God all things work together for good, for those who are called according to his purpose.

1. God is sovereign over all things (including evil).

cf. Job 1, 2; Isaiah 45:7; Lamentations 3:37, 38; Acts 2:23.

Westminster Confession of Faith

Chapter III - Of God's Eternal Decree

I. God from all eternity, did, by the most wise and holy counsel of His own will, freely, and unchangeably ordain whatsoever comes to pass; yet so, as thereby neither is God the author of sin, nor is violence offered to the will of the creatures; nor is the liberty or contingency of second causes taken away, but rather established.

Some truths we know about providence:

◆ God foreordained whatsoever comes to pass.

cf. Psalm 33:10, 11; Proverbs 19:21; Isaiah 46:8-11; Malachi 3:6; Ephesians 1:1

◆ God is the first cause Who sustains second causes.

◆ God's providence includes all evil without being the cause of evil.

2. God works all things for the good of His people.

Some additional truths we know about providence:

◆ God sovereignly uses all evil in and upon our lives ultimately to bless us.

cf. Genesis 45:5-8; 50:19-21; Isaiah 43:1-3; Philippians 1:12-18

◆ God sovereignly uses all evil in and upon the lives of the reprobate to condemn them.

cf. I Peter 2:8; Romans 9:19-23

3. God has called His people for His purpose.

cf. I Corinthians 1:9; II Timothy 1:9

:29, 30 B. We know we are predestined.

:29a

1. The basis of predestination is foreknowledge.

²⁹For those whom he foreknew he also predestined...

cf. Genesis 18:19; Jeremiah 1:5; Amos 3:2; Romans 11:2; I Peter 1:2, 20.

:29b 2. The goal of predestination is conformity to Christ.
...to be conformed to the image of his Son, in order that he might be the firstborn among many brothers.
cf. Ephesians 1:4-6; II Thessalonians 2:14.

:30 3. The end of predestination is glory.
³⁰*And those whom he predestined he also called, and those whom he called he also justified, and those whom he justified he also glorified.*

The Golden Chain:

Predestined → Called → Justified → Glorified

Some common objections:

- ◆ Doesn't predestination make humans mere robots?
- ◆ If predestination is true, why should we evangelize or pray for the lost?
- ◆ Doesn't the doctrine of predestination make God into a monster who is insensitive to human suffering?

Why is the doctrine of predestination important?

- ◆ The glory of God
- ◆ The humility of humans
- ◆ The assurance of salvation
- ◆ The motive to worship and serve