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November 17 & 20, 2022
Week 26 – God is For Us! (Romans 8:28-36)

Review:

- Vs. 1-9 – We are IN HIM
- Vs. 10-27 – He is IN US
- Vs. 28-39 – He is FOR US

Romans 8:28-30 – What Is Paul Saying?

Romans 8:28-29

The “good” God is working all things together for is that His people would be _____ into the image of His Son (vs. 29). This is our highest good!

Accurate definitions of “Foreknow”:

- To know in advance
- To have intimate relationship in the past

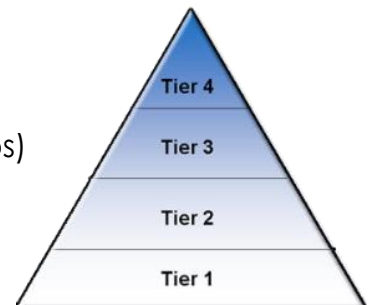
Arminians say: “From God’s eternal perspective, He looked through the corridors of time and saw in advance those who would willingly respond to the gospel. He chose them based on that advanced knowledge. How could a loving God create certain people knowing they never had a chance to be saved?”

Calvinists say: “From God’s eternal perspective, He intimately ‘knew’ (had relationship with) certain people whom He predestined to be His children. Only those who God predestined will respond positively to the Gospel. God is gracious to save anyone, given the fact that we’ve all rebelled against Him.”

The Hierarchy of Importance:

Romans 8:30

- Predestined...called...justified...glorified (all *aorist tense* verbs)
- Who is Paul talking about here in context?



The Big Idea: Your trials, hardships, sufferings, persecutions, sins, addictions, dysfunctions, weaknesses and mess-ups did not catch God by surprise. He is eternally committed to conforming you into the image of Christ. You can either go willingly, or kicking and screaming, but He will never leave you in the process.

QUESTIONS FOR SMALL GROUPS AND PERSONAL REFLECTION

Personal Life:

1. Romans 8:28 is one of the most popular verses in the Bible. Share about how the truth of this verse has impacted you personally – or about how you have seen others apply it to their lives...

Ponderings:

2. What do you personally think about the “Hierarchy of Importance” triangle that was shared in the weekend message? Was it helpful? Valid? Both? Neither? Explain...
3. Calvinists are known for their high esteem of God's sovereignty and His advanced choosing (election) of individuals for salvation. Arminians are known for their high esteem of mankind's responsibility and the existence of a “free will.” Truth be told, most Calvinists ALSO affirm that mankind bears personal responsibility to respond to the Gospel, and most Arminians ALSO affirm the sovereignty of God. What are YOUR basic beliefs concerning these two theological systems? Discuss respectfully...
4. Where (in our opinion) does the “Calvinism vs. Arminianism” debate exist on the “Hierarchy of Importance” triangle?
5. In the weekend message, an opinion was given about the meaning of Romans 8:28-30 pertaining to encouragement for suffering Romans rather than a doctrinal statement about eternal salvation. What are YOUR thoughts on those verses and why does it matter?
6. Re-read Romans 8:31-37, restating in your own words the numerous encouragements Paul is giving to the suffering Roman Christians. How do each of these truths apply to real life in the 21st century? Give examples if you can...

Promptings:

7. Thinking back through Romans 8:28-37, is there anyone specifically in your life right now who could benefit from one of the truths expressed? If so, are you willing to commit to being the “truth-bearer” of this good news to them in the week ahead? If so, jot down their name and pray for them by name each day until an opportunity comes...