

Title: The Gospel: God's Sovereignty in Salvation and Sanctification

Main Text (Romans 8:28-39)

Supporting Texts (Eph. 2:1-10; Romans 8:28-39, 9:16, 1 Cor. 6:11, 1 Thess. 4:3, 2 Tim 3:12)

I. Introduction: The problem

- A. All the major religions in the world apart from biblical Christianity are based on the notion that righteousness is gained by good works. At their core is the idea that people can be good enough either to merit the favor of some deity or at least to enjoy a happy afterlife. Therefore in one way or another, all false systems of religion teach that redemption hinges on human ability, human works, human willpower, self-atonement, or the supposed basic goodness of humanity. Naturally, then all the of them are compelled in one sense or another to deny the totality of mankind's depravity. Pg84 PCCT – MacArthur
- B. As good protestant, Southern Baptist, evangelicals, I think we generally get the idea of by “*grace through faith*” in salvation. But what about our sanctification? Do you believe that once you are saved you are on your own?

II. Main Point 1: The Gospel unto our Salvation – Sanctification (1 Thess. 4:3)

- A. By grace alone, through faith alone, in Christ alone.
- B. **Eph. 2:1-9** READ
- C. We were dead (**1 Cor. 6:11** ...*But you were washed...*)...BUT GOD. Reiterate the language in v5. Dead people can't lift their lifeless hand to reach for God.

III. Main Point 2: The Gospel in our Salvation

- A. Romans 8:28 – God works all things for His glory and our good – Qualifier – For the saved man only. Sanctification. You cannot claim this promise w/o Christ.
- B. **Notice the past tense used in all these words.** God did ALL of these things in eternity past. What does that mean? We can rest in God's sovereignty!
- C. v.29 **Foreknew** – Knew before hand, fore-loved; **Predestined** – Decide beforehand, appoint beforehand, God decreeing from eternity past that you would be his.
- D. **Conformed** – Summorphous – Having the same form as another, Describes what is the essence in character and thus complete or durable, not merely a form or outline.
- E. Who's conforming? Are you fitting yourself into the Jesus mold? No! Do we have responsibility to seek God and read his word, and pray and repent etc? Of Course! But God is the conformer and he is the mold and he made us. **Our response is obedience.** Not begrudging, I'm doing it but I don't like it, but a joyful obedience where we find our greatest satisfaction in following a holy God who knew us from eternity past and gave us himself!
- F. Why has he ordained us being conformed to his image????
- G. v.29b – So that we can be brothers with Christ!
- H. v.30 Called: to call aloud, to give a name to, to be called to bear a name or title

(among men). **What did he call?** God did all this work in eternity past for us believers... **What did he call?** - Son! Daughter!

- I. Justified: To declare or pronounce one to be righteous. Glorified – To impart glory to something, render excellent

J. The Gospel is continually needed in our sanctification

1. Lust problem? Anger problem? Marriage problems? Pride, Idolatry, selfishness, unforgiveness etc...**You don't understand the gospel!** *“To whom much is given...”*
2. v.31 What shall we say then??? WOW! Praise God! I'm Yours! We should be speechless! Please understand the gravity of this. God's sovereign grace chose you and I and all who would repent of their sins and trust in Jesus by faith to cleanse them. **This should cause us to repent continually b/c of his work and also to rest in his all-knowing character b/c of his work!**
3. This language in vv.28-30 and really the rest of the entire Bible can give us rest. I say CAN because not all who hear today will accept the grace offered to them but many continue to bow their necks to God's call to repentance and faith.
4. v.31b. God is superintending our salvation, sanctification, and remember v. 28? Our lives! This is not a verse to put on a coffee cup and be proud and arrogant when we try to start a business or feel we are being persecuted or that we are looked over for a promotion at work. **This is a verse that can give us rest in the midst of those things!**
5. vv.33-34 God justifies – Not you! Christ died – Were you the one that died? No! That's what we act like when we try to 'do better' instead of surrendering to God and allowing him to conform us. But if we're honest, who's the biggest opponent to faithfully walking in God's ways? Your spouse? Your boss? Your family? Our president? The devil made me do it? I would say that in my own experience, the biggest opponent in my life – is me. You and I have a hard time forgiving ourselves or others. You and I hold ourselves and others to unbiblical standards that we don't even meet.
6. Jesus is alive, ruling in Heaven with the Father doing what? What is he doing? Playing golf? Watching survivor? Waiting to see if we're going to screw up or 'choose' to be saved? NO!!! He is ruling and reigning as King and **he is praying for you and me! Just as he did in John 17.**

IV. Main Point 3: Striving by Faith and Perseverance

- A. vv. 35-39 Will trouble come – I don't doubt it. What about persecution – It's promised in 2 Tim 3:12 and other places. What about famine – Losing you job? What about nakedness – Basic provisions of life? Danger and sword – Wars all around us. These things are sure. They are happening and will happen.
- B. v.36. But it's not for nothing. **The glory of Christ can be seen most clearly in our**

lives, not when things are going well. When people see our good job, big house, fancy car, large TV, etc they may ask – Did Jesus give you that? Well, I'll take Jesus then! When do people look at your stuff or your perfect life that's free of pain and realize the all-knowing, all-loving, all-providing, holy, glorious nature of our God? God is most glorified when in the midst of tribulation, distress, persecution, famine, nakedness, danger and sword, you still confess that **God is enough and that he is good. He is working and though I don't understand it, he is good and is working these things for my ultimate good and his glory.**

C. **37 – We are more than conquerors? Why?** Because we have a quiet time in the morning? Because we were baptized? Because we come to church on Sundays? Because we help pass the plate or serve in children's or make the coffee? It is *through him who loved us*. That is why Paul could be convinced of the things in **vv. 38-39**. Not because he had made a decision and decided not to go back on that. **It was because of the love of Christ that Paul was secure.**

D. Good works *because* of salvation, not *for* salvation.

1. **Rom 9:16** – Not by your running! God has mercy on whom he will have mercy.
2. All works – no works – the error in both! **Eph. 2:10**

E. The mark of true believers – NOT QUITTING! How? By the power of the Holy Spirit. Not by your power.

V. **Conclusion:**

A. God is sovereign. He is good. He has ordained each of you to hear this message today. God's grace is at work in the world so that all people have opportunity to see his mighty hand in creation and in the lives of believers. But many will reject his call to repentance and faith in Jesus. Why? Pride. Man worships himself and believes he knows better. The Gospel has been presented this week and last (and really every week you step in these doors). What will your response be? That God is good or that you know better?