


Day 1

 Please pray for holy guidance and insight before you begin today’s study.

More Than Conquerors Through Him

²⁸ And we know that in all things God works for the good of those who love him, who have been called according to his purpose.

Q1. What is God’s promise in this verse?

.....
.....

Q2. Does God really work “for the good of” all people?

Yes? } Why?
No? }

.....
.....

Q3. What might be “His purpose”?

.....
.....

Q4. Have Believers in Christ Jesus been “called”? If yes, to do what?


.....
.....

Q5. [Apologetics] I lost my husband; or my wife; or my child; or my marriage; or my house; or my health. How can it be for my “good”? I thought God was love? (Brief explanation)

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.....
.....

Lesson 13: Romans 8:28-39

Day 2

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²⁹For those God foreknew he also predestined to be conformed to the likeness of his Son, that he might be the firstborn among many brothers.

Q6. Scripture states that “God foreknew.” Who (and/or what) did God know beforehand?

.....

.....

Psalm 139:16^b [NIV-1984]

All the days ordained for me were written in Your Book before one of them came to be.

Q7. Are we “also predestined to be conformed to the likeness of his Son”?


.....

.....

Q8. How are we “conformed”?

.....

.....

 **Predestination.** Some verses in this Letter to the Romans have caused a great deal of confused theology. Some theologians embrace Calvinism; some Arminianism; and some – other tangential teachings. Many books have been written trying to explain them, debate them, and by so doing argue that their choice, their version, is the best alternative. They tend to focus on their arguments, and they lose sight of Jesus’ Great Commission. Their teachings tend to cause disunity; not the unity or oneness for which Jesus prayed in John 17:20-23 (↓).

The argument goes something like this: God knew me and predestined (chose) me to be a Believer in the saving grace of Christ Jesus; in conclusion, it is God’s choice to select the people who will believe in Christ Jesus. So, you and me were several of the ‘lucky’ ones. Apparently, God does not love everyone. God is in-charge, and He selects only a small number to believe. Hmm. The bottom-line to this argument is that God chooses . . . and since God is God, God does not need my help. (This opinion also seems to stand the concept of a person’s “free-will” on its head. Please review the commentary from Charles J. Ellicott which is duplicated below ↓.)

If a Believer takes this viewpoint to the extreme, then the argument opines that it is pointless for me, a person who believes in Christ Jesus, to pray for a person’s salvation; to share personal experiences from my faith-walk; to share the Good News of the Savior Christ Jesus. God will take care of the person’s salvation, **IF** God loves the person and **IF** God chooses the person.

This viewpoint contradicts Christ Jesus’ Great Commission in which He commands, “¹⁹ Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, ²⁰ and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you.” [Matthew 28:19-20]

The Great Commission applies, of course, to the first-century disciples and other eye-witness followers of Jesus, as well as to all who believe – throughout the past two-thousand years. Yes, you and I are included!

In Jesus’ parable of the Sower and the seed (Luke 8), He described a sower who scattered seed, some of which

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fell on a hard-packed earthen path, some on rocks, some on thorny soil, and some on good soil. People are like the various soils. When the Gospel is presented, in some people the words seem to slide-off as if the person's ears are made of Teflon, in others (good soil) the words penetrate into their hearts.

We truly do not know the precise condition of a person's mind and heart or how the person may respond to the Good News of the Gospel. We should pray for the clarity of our message; we should pray that the message will be received by the person and will lodge in their heart; and we should pray that Satan is bound and unable to snatch the seed of the message from the person.

The truth is this: you and me – we are God's hands, feet, and voice in this world. It is Jesus' commission (or command) to us that we are to sow the seeds of faith; the Holy Spirit will help us, but we have to take the first steps in faith. In obedience to Jesus, we may scatter the seed of our faith to a person, who is like the dry, hard-packed earth of a path, or a person, who will drink of it like he or she had been marooned in a desert dying of thirst.

We do not know where a specific person is in their walk toward Jesus, unless we talk with them; and even then, we may not know for certain. Our words shared in obedience to our Lord Jesus may be that seemingly dead seed planted into the unbeliever's heart in which God can then cause others to water it, tend it, and grow it, until it blossoms into the most beautiful, fragrant flower of faith imaginable.

One last thought, while we tend to take someone's rejection of the Gospel as a personal failure – I wasn't clear enough; I wasn't articulate enough; and a myriad of other "I am not" excuses – we must remember that the person is not rejecting us, he or she is rejecting Christ Jesus and His offer of eternal salvation to those who believe in Him. The Holy Spirit is with us!

Luke 12:12 [NIV-1984] [Jesus promised that the Holy Spirit will give us words:]

“. . . for the Holy Spirit will teach you at that time what you should say."

Luke 15:10 [NIV-1984] [Heaven rejoices:]

In the same way, I tell you, there is rejoicing in the presence of the angels of God over one sinner who repents."

John 15:20-22 [NIV-1984] [Jesus taught that we should expect persecution for our faith:]


²⁰ Remember the words I spoke to you: 'No servant is greater than his master.' If they persecuted me, they will persecute you also. If they obeyed my teaching, they will obey yours also. ²¹ They will treat you this way because of my name, for they do not know the One who sent me. ²² If I had not come and spoken to them, they would not be guilty of sin. Now, however, they have no excuse for their sin.

John 17:20-23 [NIV-1984]

²⁰ "My prayer is not for them [Jesus' disciples] alone. I pray also for those [all Believers throughout history] who will believe in me through their message, ²¹ that all of them may be one, Father, just as you are in me and I am in you. May they also be in us so that the world may believe that you have sent me. ²² I have given them the glory that you gave me, that they may be one as we are one: ²³ I in them and you in me. May they be brought to complete unity to let the world know that you sent me and have loved them even as you have loved me.

1 John 4:7-8 [NIV-1984] [God is love . . .]


⁷ Dear friends, let us love one another, for love comes from God. Everyone who loves has been born of God and knows God. ⁸ Whoever does not love does not know God, because God is love.

 (Verses 29 & 30) **Predestined:** "This is the term which seems most to interfere with human free-will. Foreknowledge does not interfere with free-will, because the foreknowledge, though prior in point of time, is posterior in the order of causation to the act of choice. A man [or woman] does not choose a certain action because it is foreknown, but it is foreknown because s/he will choose it. Predestination (the word is not inadequately translated) appears to involve a more rigorous necessity. All we can say is that it must not be interpreted in any sense that excludes free-will. Free-will is a postulate on which all the superstructure of morals and religion must rest. The religious mind, looking back over the course by which it has been brought, sees in it predominating the hand of God; but however large the divine

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element in salvation may be, it must in the end be apprehended by faith, which is an act of free-will. And the subsequent actions of which faith is the moving cause, though done under a co-operating divine influence, yet belong to the sphere of human freedom. . . It should be remembered that St. Paul is not now writing in the calm temper of philosophical analysis, but in an intense access of religious emotion, and therefore he does not stay to put in all the qualifying clauses that philosophy might require. It is well for mankind that he has done so. In all great and creative religious minds, the consciousness of free-will has retired into the background.” [©about 1880, *Ellicott's Commentary for English Readers*, edited by Charles J. Ellicott. <https://biblehub.com/commentaries/romans/8-30.htm>]

Day 3

 Please pray for holy guidance and insight before you begin today's study.

³⁰ And those he predestined, he also called; those he called, he also justified; those he justified, he also glorified. ³¹ What, then, shall we say in response to this? If God is for us, who can be against us?

Q9. Who is “predestined”?

Q10. Read the first seven words of verse 30: “And those he predestined, he also called”. What do these words mean to you?

Q11. How would you explain “justified” and “glorified”?

Justified defined?

Glorified defined?


Summary?

Q12. Do you take comfort in this Scripture, “If God is for us, who can be against us?”

Yes? } Why?
No? }

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Day 4

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³² He who did not spare his own Son, but gave him up for us all — how will he not also, along with him, graciously give us all things?

Q13. What jumps out at you from this verse?

³³ Who will bring any charge against those whom God has chosen? It is God who justifies. ³⁴ Who is he that condemns? Christ Jesus, who died — more than that, who was raised to life — is at the right hand of God and is also interceding for us.

Q14. How do you answer Paul's question: "Who will bring any charge against those whom God has chosen?" [Please review the 'analogy' reproduced in Lesson 6: Romans 3:9-31, page 4]

Job 1:6-7 [International Children's Bible (ICB)]

⁶ One day the angels came to show themselves before the Lord. Satan [or "the accuser"] also came with them. ⁷ The Lord said to Satan, "Where have you come from?"

Satan answered the Lord, "I have been wandering around the earth. I have been going back and forth in it."


1 Peter 5:8-9 [International Children's Bible (ICB)]

⁸ Control yourselves and be careful! The devil is your enemy. And he goes around like a roaring lion looking for someone to eat. ⁹ Refuse to give in to the devil. Stand strong in your faith. You know that your Christian brothers and sisters all over the world are having the same sufferings you have.

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Q15. What promise(s) do you see in verse 34?

Day 5

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³⁵ Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? Shall trouble or hardship or persecution or famine or nakedness or danger or sword?

Q16. Can anything separate us from the "love of Christ"?

Yes? }
No? } Why?

³⁶ As it is written: "For your sake we face death all day long; we are considered as sheep to be slaughtered." [Psalm 44:22]

Q17. Jesus said He was the fulfillment of Scripture [the Old Testament]. Did Jesus promise that we, who believe in His Name, will have an easy time of life in this world?

Matthew 5:11-12 [NIV-1984]

¹¹ "Blessed are you when people insult you, persecute you and falsely say all kinds of evil against you because of me. ¹² Rejoice and be glad, because great is your reward in heaven, for in the same way they persecuted the prophets who were before you.

John 16:33 [NIV-1984]

"I have told you these things, so that in me you may have peace. In this world you will have trouble. But take heart! I have overcome the world."

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John 12:16 [The Message (MSG); a paraphrase]

The disciples didn't notice the fulfillment of many Scriptures at the time, but after Jesus was glorified, they remembered that what was written about him matched what was done to him.


Luke 4:21 [English Standard Version (ESV)]

And he [Jesus] began to say to them, "Today this Scripture has been fulfilled in your hearing."

Luke 22:37^a [English Standard Version (ESV)] [Jesus said:]

For I tell you that this Scripture must be fulfilled in me

Day 6

 Please pray for holy guidance and insight before you begin today's study.

³⁷No, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him who loved us. ³⁸For I am convinced that neither death nor life, neither angels nor demons, neither the present nor the future, nor any powers, ³⁹neither height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God that is in Christ Jesus our Lord.

Q18. Do you consider yourself a conqueror? With the Lord's help, what have you been able to conquer?

Yes? } Why?
No? }

Conquered?

Q19. What is the promise stated in verses 38-39? What does this promise mean to you?

Promise?

Meaning?

[Continued (↓)]

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Q20. Do you share Paul's conviction expressed in verse 38-39?

Yes? }
No? } Why?

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