

# 8.30 studies

## introduction

Romans 8.28-30 are verses of rich comfort & assurance. They come to us who live in the midst of a groaning creation, in groaning bodies.

And yet we wait in hope as the children of God.

Our hope rests in him & all that he has done for us, all that he does for us & all that he will do for us.

Romans 8.28-30 speak to us richly of these great truths. Perhaps the most important word in the verses is "he", God, our Father & the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ.

Over the next 4 weeks we're going to focus on 4 gracious divine acts... stated in Romans 8.30:- he **predestined**.. he **called**... he **justified**... he **glorified**. This has sometimes been called the golden chain of salvation.

As a result of our 4 week focus we ought to be filled with thanksgiving, comfort, assurance, awe & wonder,.

*Oh, the depth of the riches of the wisdom and knowledge of God!  
How unsearchable his judgements, and his paths beyond tracing out!  
"Who has known the mind of the Lord? Or who has been his counsellor?"  
"Who has ever given to God, that God should repay him?"  
For from him and through him and to him are all things.  
To him be the glory forever! Amen.*



8.30 studies  
**study 4**

Why is the resurrection of the body so important in a right understanding of our glorification?

Re-read together Romans 8.28-30. Share with one another the rich comfort & assurance that flows from these verses.

Thinking back over these 4 studies.... what would be one truth that has been especially precious to you?

We have much to be thankful for! Spend some time in prayer & praise & thanksgiving together.

*Oh, the depth of the riches of the wisdom and knowledge of God!  
How unsearchable his judgements, and his paths beyond tracing out!  
"Who has known the mind of the Lord? Or who has been his counsellor?"  
"Who has ever given to God, that God should repay him?"  
For from him and through him and to him are all things.  
To him be the glory forever! Amen.*

8.30 studies  
**study 1**

**And those he  
predestined,  
he also called; those he called, he also justified;  
those he justified, he also glorified.**

**BEFORE the group meets**

Here's a helpful definition of predestination (or election or fore-ordination):-

*"that work of God's grace whereby he chooses individuals (and groups) for a purpose or destiny in accordance with his will."<sup>1</sup>*

Read the following scriptures & note down what they teach us about God's predestination of people.

• **Genesis 11.31-12.7**

• **Genesis 18.16-19**

• **Deuteronomy 14.2**

• **Jeremiah 1.4-5**

• **1Peter 1.20**

---

<sup>1</sup> B. Milne. *Know the Truth*, IVP 1982, p183



**8.30 studies**  
**study 4**

*Using these scriptures have a go at coming up with a description or a definition of God's glorification of his people.*

John Calvin (theologian & reformer) in his Institutes of the Christian Religion (1559) wrote these words concerning our final resurrection & everlasting blessedness...

*"let us always remember that the end of the resurrection is eternal happiness, of whose excellence scarcely the minutest part can be described by all that human tongues can say. For though we very truly hear that the Kingdom of God will be filled with splendour, joy, happiness, and glory, yet when these things are spoken of, they remain utterly remote from our perception, and, as it were, wrapped in obscurities, until that day comes when he will reveal to us his glory, that we may behold it face to face..."*

*If the Lord will share his glory, power, and righteousness with the elect-nay, will give himself to be enjoyed by them and, what is more excellent, will somehow make them to become one with himself, let us remember that every sort of happiness is included under this benefit." (III.25.10)*

How do Calvin's words match your own reactions to the scriptures you've been reflecting upon?

**8.30 studies**  
**study 1**

• **James 2.5**

• **1Corinthians 1.27-29**

• **Acts 13.46-48**

**8.30 studies**  
**study 1**

See if you can come up with a sentence that captures the truths that are taught in these scriptures.

The **39 Articles of religion** are an important statement of reformed theology. They were established in 1563 as the defining statements of Anglican doctrine.

Article 17 concerns Predestination & Election. (This a modernised translation)

*Predestination to life is the eternal purpose of God, whereby (before the foundations of the world were laid) he has consistently decreed by his counsel which is hidden from us to deliver from curse and damnation those whom he has chosen in Christ out of mankind and to bring them through Christ to eternal salvation as vessels made for honor. Hence those granted such an excellent benefit by God are called according to God's purpose by his Spirit working at the appropriate time. By grace they obey the calling; they are freely justified, are made sons of God by adoption, are made like the image of his only-begotten Son Jesus Christ, they walk faithfully in good works and at the last by God's mercy attain eternal happiness.*

*The reverent consideration of this subject of predestination and of our election in Christ is full of sweet, pleasant, and inexpressible comfort to the godly and to those who feel within themselves the working of the Spirit of Christ, putting to death the deeds of the sinful and earthly nature and lifting their minds up to high and heavenly things. This consideration establishes and confirms their belief in the eternal salvation to be enjoyed through Christ and kindles a fervent love towards God. But for inquisitive and unspiritual persons who lack the Spirit of Christ to have the sentence of God's predestination continually before their eyes is a dangerous snare which the devil uses to drive them either into desperation or into recklessly immoral living (a state no less perilous than desperation). Furthermore we need to receive God's promises in the manner in which they are generally set out to us in holy Scripture, and in our actions we need to follow that will of God which is clearly declared to us in the Word of God.*

**8.30 studies**  
**study 4**

• **Philippians 3.20-4.1**

• **Colossians 3.1-4**

• **1Thessalonians 2.10-12**

• **2Thessalonians 2.13-15**

• **2Timothy 2.8-13**

• **1John 3.1-3**

• **Revelation 22.1-5**



8.30 studies  
**study 1**

Sometimes it is taught that God's election is simply a matter of God knowing in advance who will respond to the gospel. Discuss what makes this view a deficient understanding of the Scriptures and of God himself.

According to article 17 of the 39 articles:- "*the godly consideration of Predestination, and our Election in Christ, is full of sweet, pleasant, and unspeakable comfort to godly persons*". Discuss this statement (you might want to focus on Romans 8).

How does this doctrine of predestination help us in the midst of the groaning of this creation?

How does this doctrine of predestination help us in our evangelism?

*Spend time in praise & thanksgiving together. Use the truths of Romans 8.28-39 as the basis of your prayers.*

8.30 studies  
**study 4**

**And those he predestined, he also called; those he called, he also justified; those he justified, he also**

**glorified.**

**BEFORE the group meets**

Read the following scriptures & note down what they teach us about God's glorification of his people.

• **Romans 3.21-24**

• **Romans 5.1-2**

• **Romans 5.9-10**

• **Romans 8.15-17**

• **Romans 8.18-21**

• **Romans 8.22-25**

• **Romans 8.28-30**

• **Romans 8.38-39**

8.30 studies  
**study 3**

What truth (s) is the WCF seeking to protect & defend when it states:-

*1. Those whom God effectually calls he also freely justifies, not by infusing righteousness into them, but by pardoning their sins and by accounting and accepting them as righteous. It is not for anything wrought in them, or done by them, but for Christ's sake alone that they are justified*

Why is this doctrine of justification so important for our assurance?

Why is this doctrine really important in our evangelism?

What difference should this doctrine make to our day to day lives as those saved by Jesus?

*Spend time in praise & thanksgiving together. Perhaps the apostle Paul's prayer in Ephesians 3.14-21 might be helpful.*

8.30 studies  
**study 2**

**And those he predestined,  
he also**

**called ;**

**those he called, he also justified; those he justified,  
he also glorified.**

**BEFORE the group meets**

Once more.. a theological definition might help us kick off:-  
*Calling refers to that work of God by his Spirit & his Word by which he effectively summons his chosen people to come to him & receive his mercy in Jesus Christ.*

Read the following scriptures & note down what they teach us about God's calling of his chosen people.

• **John 6.44**

• **John 10.1-6, 14-16, 22-30**

• **Matthew 22.1-14**

• **Romans 8.28-30**

• **1Corinthians 1.9**

**study 2**

- **1 Corinthians 1.26**
  
- **1 Corinthians 2.1-5, 12-16**
  
- **Galatians 1.6**
  
- **Ephesians 4.1-6**
  
- **Colossians 3.15**
  
- **Colossians 4.2-6**
  
- **1 Thessalonians 1.4, 2.10-13**
  
- **2 Thessalonians 2.13-15**
  
- **1 Timothy 6.12**
  
- **2 Timothy 1.8-10**
  
- **Hebrews 9.15**

**study 3**

*only of free grace. It was God's purpose in the justification of sinners to glorify both his exact justice and his rich grace.*

*4. God, from all eternity, decreed to justify all the elect. In the fullness of time, Christ died for their sins and rose again for their justification.*

*Nevertheless, they are not justified until, in due time, the Holy Spirit actually applies Christ to them.*

*5. God continues to forgive the sins of those who are justified. Although they can never fall from the state of justification, yet they may by their sins fall under God's fatherly displeasure and not have the light of his countenance restored to them until they humble themselves, confess their sin, plead for pardon, and renew their faith and repentance.*

*6. The justification of believers under the old testament was, in all these respects, one and the same with the justification of believers under the new testament.*

Use a highlighter to indicate phrases that you think are especially helpful.

**WHEN the group meets**

Share & discuss the bits of scripture from your preparation that really impacted you, surprised you, confused you, confronted you, comforted you....

Share your sentence summaries with one another.

Discuss together your reflections on the chapter from the Westminster Confession of Faith.

8.30 studies  
**study 3**

• **Philippians 3.7-11**

• **Titus 3.3-7**

8.30 studies  
**study 2**

• **1Peter 2.9-10**

• **Jude 1-2**

What are the key truths found in these readings?

Here's how this most important doctrine is expressed in The Westminster Confession of Faith. (this is a modern language version):-

**CHAPTER XI: Of Justification.**

1. *Those whom God effectually calls he also freely justifies, not by infusing righteousness into them, but by pardoning their sins and by accounting and accepting them as righteous. It is not for anything wrought in them, or done by them, but for Christ's sake alone that they are justified. It is not by imputing faith itself, the act of believing, or any other act of Christian obedience to them, as their righteousness, but by imputing the obedience and satisfaction of Christ to them who receive and rest on him and his righteousness by faith. Men do not have this faith of themselves; it is the gift of God.*

2. *Faith—receiving and resting on Christ and his righteousness—is the only instrument of justification; yet it is not the only grace in the person justified, but is always accompanied by all other saving graces. Justifying faith is not dead, but works by love.*

3. *Christ, by his obedience and death, fully discharged the debt of all those who are justified. He made a proper, real, and full satisfaction to his Father's justice in their behalf. Yet, because he was freely given by the Father for them, and because his obedience and satisfaction were freely accepted in their stead, and not for anything in them, their justification is*

8.30 studies  
study 2

See if you can come up with a sentence that captures the truths that are taught in these scriptures.

The **Westminster Confession of Faith** was drawn up in 1646 and this provides the doctrinal foundation of the Presbyterian church. The Confession devotes a whole chapter to calling. (This a modernised translation)

**CHAPTER X.: Of Effectual Calling.** (effectual means effective, successful)

1. All those—and only those—whom God has predestined to life, he is pleased to call effectually in his appointed and accepted time, by his Word and Spirit. He calls them from the state of sin and death—in which they are by nature—to grace and salvation by Jesus Christ. In this calling, God enlightens their minds spiritually and savingly, so that they understand the things of God. He takes away their hearts of stone and gives them hearts of flesh, renews their wills, and by his almighty power turns them to what is good and effectually draws them to Jesus Christ. Yet he does this in such a way that they come most freely, being made willing by his grace.

2. This effectual call is from God's free and special grace alone, and not from anything at all that God foresees in man, who is entirely passive in it, until—being made alive and renewed by the Holy Spirit—he is enabled to answer the call and embrace the grace offered and conveyed in it.

3. Elect infants who die in infancy are regenerated and saved by Christ through the Spirit, who works when, where, and how he pleases. So also are all other elect persons who are incapable of being outwardly called by the ministry of the Word.

4. Although other persons who are not elected may be called by the ministry of the Word and may experience some common operations of the Spirit, yet they never really come to Christ and therefore cannot be saved. Much less can men not professing to be Christians be saved in any other way, no matter how carefully they may order their lives by the light of nature and by the laws of whatever religion they profess. To assert and maintain that they may be saved in some other way is very pernicious and is to be detested.

How do these words match what you've read what you know of the scriptures?

8.30 studies  
study 3

• Romans 8.31-39

• Romans 10.5-13

• 1Corinthians 1.26-31

• 1Corinthians 6.9-11

• 2Corinthians 5.21

• Galatians 2.15-16

• Galatians 3.7-9

8.30 studies  
**study 3**

- Romans 1.16-17
- Romans 3.9-20
- Romans 3.21-26
- Romans 3.27-31
- Romans 4.1-12
- Romans 4.13-25
- Romans 5.1-11
- Romans 5.18-21
- Romans 8.1-4
- Romans 8.28-30

8.30 studies  
**study 2**

**when the group meets**

Share & discuss the bits of scripture from your preparation that really impacted you, surprised you, confronted you, comforted you....

Share your sentence summaries with one another.

How well did Chapter 10 of the Westminster Confession of Faith reflect the scriptures you read?

How does God's calling of his people connect with his predestination of them?

How does this doctrine impact our evangelism?

8.30 studies  
**study 2**

What difference should this doctrine make to our every day lives as Christians?

How does this doctrine of calling help us in the midst of the groaning of this creation?

*Spend time in praise & thanksgiving together. Use the teaching of Jesus from John 10 to help you in your prayers.*

8.30 studies  
**study 3**

**And those he predestined, he also called; those he called, he also**

**justified;**  
**those he justified, he also glorified.**

**BEFORE the group meets**

Here's a helpful definition of justification:-

*"Justification is that work of God's grace whereby the sinner through his faith-union with Christ is accounted righteous before God on the grounds of Christ's obedience, death & resurrection."*

Read the following scriptures & note down what they teach us about God's justification of his people.

• **Genesis 12.1-3, 15.1-6**

• **Psalm 130**

• **Isaiah 53.3-11**

• **Luke 18.9-14**