

Romans Chapter 8
Week 9, v. 29

Ro 8:29 For whom He foreknew, He also predestined [to become] conformed to the image of His Son, that He might be the first-born among many brethren;

Romans 8:29 gives a reason for *how is it that* all things work for good for those who are called. The answer – God has a plan and His plan is for us to be conformed to the image of His Son.

There is no doubt to our future. God is omniscient, meaning He knows everything, everyone, every purpose, and every result. Somehow, and in some way that we cannot understand, God has absolute knowledge of who His children are before they are even born and His children will be like Christ.

2Th 2:13 But we should always give thanks to God for you, brethren beloved by the Lord, because **God has chosen you from the beginning** for salvation through sanctification by the Spirit and faith in the truth.

Eph 1:3-8a Blessed [be] the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly [places] in Christ, just as **He chose us in Him before the foundation of the world**, that we should be holy and blameless before Him. In love **He predestined us to adoption as sons through Jesus Christ to Himself**, according to the kind intention of His will, to the praise of the glory of His grace, which He freely bestowed on us in the Beloved. In Him we have redemption through His blood, the forgiveness of our trespasses, according to the riches of His grace, which He lavished upon us.

What is the first piece of information in Romans 8:29 that gives us insight into God's relationship with His children? This verse says He foreknew us.

Foreknew <proginosko> to know beforehand, i.e. foresee: foreknow (ordain), know (before).

What kinds of things do you know? How did you get that information?
Think of a child. Do they automatically know the names of colors or shapes?

God has knowledge of the future. He has knowledge of our future. Think of the things you have knowledge of. All of our knowledge is the result of learning and reasoning and is based upon prior information. We can make what we would call 'educated' assumptions based on previous facts, however, they are still assumptions not absolutes. God is the only one who has absolute knowledge.

Our Lord is the God of knowledge – His understanding is absolute, meaning it is perfect and complete, without error. God's knowledge is not based on the collection of data and making assumptions, it is pure and holy – absolute Truth.

Ro 11:33 Oh, the depth of the riches both of the wisdom and knowledge of God! How unsearchable are His judgments and unfathomable His ways!

Isa 40:28 Do you not know? Have you not heard? The Everlasting God, the LORD, the Creator of the ends of the earth does not become weary or tired. His understanding is inscrutable.

According to the truth that God knew us even before we were born, is there anything we can do or think that is a surprise to Him? Is He surprised by our weaknesses and failures? Is He surprised by our strengths and successes? What about events that come into our lives? Or even people we become acquainted with?

Ps 147:5 Great is our Lord, and abundant in strength; **His understanding is infinite.**

Isa 42:9 "Behold, the former things have come to pass, Now I declare new things; **before they spring forth I proclaim [them] to you.**"

Just as God has always existed and will always exist, He has always had complete knowledge of all things and all peoples.

What additional insight to God's relationship with His children is found in Romans 8:29? God predestined our character. What does Romans 8:29 say about our character? We will be conformed to the image of Jesus because God has determined that this is so.

Php 3:20-21 For our citizenship is in heaven, from which also we eagerly wait for a Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ; **who will transform the body of our**

humble state into conformity with the body of His glory, by the exertion of the power that He has even to subject all things to Himself.

2Co 3:18 But we all, with unveiled face beholding as in a mirror the glory of the Lord, **are being transformed into the same image from glory to glory**, just as from the Lord, the Spirit.

1Jo 3:2 Beloved, now we are children of God, and it has not appeared as yet what we shall be. **We know that, when He appears, we shall be like Him**, because we shall see Him just as He is.

What can we conclude from this? We are God's children because He has purposed us to be His children. We have been saved to be holy.

What does it mean to be conformed to something?

Conformed <summorphos> to be similar, fashioned like unto.

Matt 12:50; John 20:17

What is your response to the knowledge that you, if you are God's child, will someday be like Jesus? How does this make you think differently about your future?

What should we see in our life if we are God's child? Should we be concerned if we look like those around us who are in the world? Why? What scripture can we refer to?

2Co 13:5 Test yourselves [to see] if you are in the faith; examine yourselves! Or do you not recognize this about yourselves, that Jesus Christ is in you--unless indeed you fail the test?

What does verse 29 say about Jesus?

'that He might be the firstborn among many brethren'

This speaks of Christ's position and honor on earth and in heaven. In the Hebrew culture, the first-born were dedicated to God and had many privileges and honors. Christ is the head of the church and we are part of His family

through adoption and God's grace. So although we will be conformed to Christ or like Him, we will not be equal to Him.

Col 1:13-15, 18 For He delivered us from the domain of darkness, and transferred us to the kingdom of His beloved Son, in whom we have redemption, the forgiveness of sins. And He is the image of the invisible God, the first-born of all creation...He is also head of the body, the church; and He is the beginning, the first-born from the dead; so that He Himself might come to have first place in everything.

Heb 2:11-14 For both He who sanctifies and those who are sanctified are all from one [Father]; for which reason He is not ashamed to call them brethren, saying, "I WILL PROCLAIM THY NAME TO MY BRETHREN, IN THE MIDST OF THE CONGREGATION I WILL SING THY PRAISE." And again, "I WILL PUT MY TRUST IN HIM." And again, "BEHOLD, I AND THE CHILDREN WHOM GOD HAS GIVEN ME."

Do your conversations, thoughts and actions speak of your conformity to Christ and the future that has been purposed for your life? In what areas of your life is God tugging at? How are you growing in Christlikeness?

Do others see a correct representation of Christ in you?