

THE RECIPE FOR GOD'S UNDEFEATABLE PURPOSE

Ingredient #2: Predestination - His Transforming Power

Romans 8:28-30

Introduction:

● God's Power

1. Is unmatched - Over 50 times He is called the A _____, which means He is more powerful than all
2. Is p _____ - He uses it for our good

● God has a plan to save people from every walk of l _____ (Rev 5:9,10) & He will accomplish this plan (Is 46:10,11). How?

1. Foreknowledge (last week's lesson)
 - a. DOES NOT mean that God k _____ everything in advance (that would require a different Greek word).
 - b. DOES mean a prior decision to enter into a p _____ relationship with
 - 1) God does not personally know everyone (Matt 7:23) and does not foreknow everyone - this is a g _____ (Is 64:6; I Jn 4:19; Gal 4:9)
 - 2) The Bible does not tell us w _____ God makes this prior decision, so to conclude that He made it before creation would be unbiblical (this should motivate us to pray for the l _____ - Rom 10:1 and to share the gospel - Rom 1:16)
2. Predestination (this week's lesson) - has to do with God's transforming power

The Result of God's Transforming Power - Our Lives R _____ Jesus' Character

● How the word "predestine" has been WRONGLY used

1. God has predetermined all whom He is going to s _____
2. God has predetermined all who will be l _____.

● How the word "predestine" is used in the Bible

1. Acts 4:27,28 - refers to the event of the c _____ of Jesus (God predestined this event to happen).
2. Eph 2:7 - refers to the revelation of the hidden wisdom of God, salvation in C _____. (It was hidden in the O.T. - I Pet 1:10-12; but predestined to be revealed later)
3. Eph 1:5 - does not refer to the initial adoption as children, but the believer's FINAL adoption as s _____, the redemption of the body from death (Rom 8:23).
4. Eph 1:11 - refers to the believer's f _____ inheritance to be received after Christ's coming (I Pet 1:4)
5. Rom 8:29 - refers to the certainty of being conformed to the i _____ of Christ.

● The image of God's Son

1. Not a p _____ image but a spiritual one (Col 1:15; Jn 4:23,24)
2. Jesus said, *if you have seen Me, you have seen the F _____* (Jn 14:9 - He was not the Father but reflected His character)
3. Adam & Eve were c _____ in God's image (Gen 1:27)

● What happened to the image of God in human beings?

1. When Adam and Eve sinned, it was l _____
2. Except for Christ, no human was born with God's image, which is why God has to conform us to the image of Christ.

● When does this conforming process take place?

1. It begins when Jesus enters into a r _____ with us.
2. It progresses when we use God's p _____ to overcome sin. So it is a process (2 Cor 3:18)
3. It will be complete when Jesus v _____ returns (I Jn 3:2)
4. God has predestined this conformity and so it will happen!

The Purpose of God's Transforming Power - Our Lives G _____ Jesus as Supreme

● Before coming to Christ, no one is capable of loving God, trusting God, or personally k _____ God

1. God has to c _____ our will so that we will love Him (I Jn 4:7,8) and will never be a _____ of Him (Rom 10:11)
2. God does not change our will so that we will love Him with our w _____ hearts. He gives us this capacity, but leaves it up to us to love Him wholeheartedly

● The purpose of God's transforming power has to do with Jesus as *the firstborn among many brothers*

1. The word firstborn has only two meanings:

- a. The first one born into a f_____ (Lk 2:7 – Jesus was the firstborn of Mary)
 - b. One who holds s_____ authority.
2. Word Study on definition b.
- a. Deut 21:15-17: a law forbidding a father to make his second born, the firstborn (in ancient culture, the firstborn became the h_____ of the family when the father died)
 - b. Col 1:15 – Jesus is the “firstborn” of all creation
 - 1) Jehovah’s Witnesses wrongly interpret this to mean the first one to be created (the word “first” often means first in r_____ - I Cor 12:28; Acts 13:50)
 - 2) Context determines the meaning – the context is about a_____ (all things, including powers and authorities were created by Him and for Him)
 - 3) Jesus is the “firstborn” of all creation, which means He is the r_____ of all creation.
 - c. Col 1:18 – Jesus is the “firstborn” from the dead
 - 1) Many **WRONGLY** interpret that Jesus was the first one to rise from the dead (He was not, e.g. Lazarus).
 - 2) The context determines the meaning – the context is about a_____ (He is the head of the church; He is firstborn so that He will come to have f_____ place in everything (KJV – preeminence; NIV – supremacy)
 - d. When did Jesus become God’s firstborn?
 - 1) Not until a_____ He rose from the dead (Matt 28:18).
 - 2) Ps 89:27 – prophecies how God would make the Christ His firstborn: by making Him the h_____ of the kings of the earth.
 - 3) Rev 1:5 calls Jesus the firstborn **OF** the dead, which has a different emphasis – He is ruler of the dead.
- The purpose for being predestinated to Christ’s image is so that Christ will be seen as supreme ruler by those in His family!
1. Jesus is not a_____ to call us brothers (Heb 2:11)
 2. God puts in us the desire and the ability to do His good p_____ (Phil 2:13)
 3. We demonstrate that Jesus makes a difference when we glorify Him as supreme in our life. God wants the world to see His transforming power in you so that He can bring more people to Christ.

Summary of Rom 8:28,29

No matter what you believers in Christ are going through, have gone through or will go through, God will use it to mold you and shape you to be more Christ-like. His purpose is to demonstrate His transforming power in those who make Christ supreme in every area of their lives.

Challenge: Is there an area that you are not giving Christ first place? Pray a prayer of commitment and experience His transforming power!