
Upon Believing

By

PASTOR J. C. O'HAIR



PART II - FOUR WONDERFUL BIBLE VERSES

Quite frequently we hear some Christian quote Romans 8:28, especially when some sorrow or disappointment has been experienced. But it is interesting to note the "FOR" that connects this verse with the three verses that follow. Note the twenty-eighth verse and the three verses that follow:

"AND WE KNOW THAT ALL THINGS WORK TOGETHER FOR GOOD TO THEM THAT LOVE GOD, TO THEM WHO ARE CALLED ACCORDING TO HIS PURPOSE.

FOR WHOM HE DID FOREKNOW, HE ALSO DID PREDESTINATE, TO BE CONFORMED TO THE IMAGE OF HIS SON, THAT HE MIGHT BE THE FIRSTBORN AMONG MANY BRETHREN.

MOREOVER WHOM HE DID PREDESTINATE, THEM HE ALSO CALLED; AND WHOM HE CALLED, THEM HE ALSO JUSTIFIED: AND WHOM HE JUSTIFIED, THEM HE ALSO GLORIFIED.

WHAT SHALL WE THEN SAY TO THESE THINGS? IF GOD BE FOR US WHO CAN BE AGAINST US?"

Here we note that God had, and has, a purpose. Note the words of Acts 15:18: **"Known unto God are all His works from the beginning of the world."** Surely if God is omniscient, He knows all things. God not only knew the end from the beginning, but God had a secret purpose from before the foundation of the world.

Note Ephesians 3:9 and 11 and Ephesians 1:12:

"And to make all men see what is the dispensation (fellowship) of the Mystery which from the beginning of the world hath been hid in God." "According to the eternal purpose which He purposed in Christ Jesus our Lord." Ephesians 3:9 and 11.

"In Whom also we have obtained an inheritance, being predestined according to the purpose of Him Who worketh all things after the counsel of His own will." Ephesians 1:12.

Then note II Timothy 1:9 and Ephesians 1:4 and 5:

"God Who hath saved us and called us with an holy calling, not according to our works, but according to His own purpose and grace, which was given us in Christ Jesus before the world began." II Timothy 1:9.

"According as He hath chosen us in Him before the foundation of the world, that we should be holy and without blame before Him in love: Having predestinated us unto the adoption of children by Jesus Christ to Himself, according to the good pleasure of His will." Ephesians 1:4 and 5.

So God's Word tells us very definitely that God purposed in Christ Jesus before the world began that which He has revealed in the Epistle to the Ephesians. Note Ephesians 1:9: **"Having made known unto us the mystery of His will, according to His good pleasure which He hath purposed in Himself."**

God has made known the secret of His will. Then all Christians should diligently search the Scriptures and learn that revealed Divine secret. The sons of men in other ages and generations did not have this wonderful privilege; for God did not choose to disclose His eternal purpose to them:

"Whereof I am made a minister, according to the dispensation of God which is given to me for you, to fulfill the word of God; Even the mystery which hath been hid from ages and from generations, but now is made manifest to His saints." Colossians 1:25 and 26.

Note again Ephesians 3:5 and 8:

"Which in other ages was not made known unto the sons of men, as it is now revealed unto His holy apostles and prophets by the Spirit; Unto me, who am less than the least of all saints, is this grace given, that I should preach among the Gentiles, the unsearchable riches of Christ." Ephesians 3:5.

and 8.

God wants all Christians to see this glorious truth now and to know the hope of the Lord's calling and what are the riches of the glory of His inheritance in the saints. Ephesians 1:17 and 18. Note again in Ephesians 1:11:

"In whom also we have obtained an inheritance, being predestined according to the purpose of Him Who **worketh** all things after the counsel of His own will."

"An inheritance, being predestinated according to God's purpose" We should know God's revealed secret, the mystery of His will, His eternal predestinated purpose. And if we honestly endeavor to walk worthy of our calling, as members of the Body of Christ and constantly endeavor to make others see the dispensation of the secret, we can know and say positively that all things work together for good for such Christians who love God and are the called according to God's purpose. For—for what?

"For whom He did foreknow, He also did predestinate to be conformed to the image of His Son, that He might be the firstborn among many brethren." Romans 8:29.

Then note the question in verse 31: "What shall we then say to these things? If God be for us, who can be against us?"

What blessed truth to know. What appalling ignorance among Christians concerning God's purpose and grace given us in Christ before the world began. Most of the Christians in this age and generation are as ignorant of **this** glorious Divine Truth as were the sons of men in other ages and generations to whom it was never revealed.

Perhaps you have observed that Christians who are opposed to the doctrine of eternal security actually hate the doctrine of predestination, for the two truths are inseparably connected. No Christian should hate God's Word. And every Christian who really knows and believes the truth concerning God's predestinated purpose believes in the eternal security

of the believer.

"All things work together for good." Note it, "for good." To whom? To those who are the called according to God's purpose.

And note the good things that God has on deposit for those who are called according to His purpose:

"Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, Who hath blessed us with all spiritual blessings in the heavenlies in Christ According as He hath chosen us in Him before the foundation of the world, that we should be holy and without blame before Him in love." Ephesians 1:3 and 4.

We can never appreciate either of these facts until we know both of them, namely, that those who are blessed with all spiritual blessings in the heavenlies in Christ were chosen in Christ before the foundation of the world:

"Having predestinated us unto the adoption of children by Jesus Christ to Himself, according to the good pleasure of His will." Ephesians 1:5.

When we learn these facts then we will begin to comprehend **"With all saints what is the breadth, and length, and depth, and height; And to know the love of Christ, which passeth knowledge, that ye might be filled with all the fulness of God."** Ephesians 3:18 and 19.

How many Christians are filled with all the fulness of God? How many Christians know what is meant by the fulness of Christ in Ephesians 1:23: "Which is His Body, the fulness of Him that filleth all in all?"

Note the climax of the wonderful Mystery of God's will, that purpose and grace given us in Christ Jesus before the world began. Note Ephesians 4:12 and 13: "For the perfecting of the saints for the work of the ministry, for the edifying of the Body of Christ." "Till we all come in the unity of the faith, and of the knowledge of the Son of God, unto a Perfect

Man, unto the measure of the stature of the fulness of Christ.”

We shall come to the fulness of Christ in the unity of faith. There is one faith. Ephesians 4:5. God will permit no Christian to see this glorious profound truth until that Christian will receive the truth from the Holy Spirit and the Scriptures, that there is but one Body, even as there is but one Head of the Body, that there is one baptism for this age even as there is but one Spirit for this age.

Christians have been blinded by sectarianism and traditions of men and have made very little earnest effort to keep the unity of the Spirit on the basis of the seven-fold unity of Ephesians 4:3 to 7. Therefore they could not obey Ephesians 3:9 even if they had the desire to do so.

The present Divine program concerning the Body of Christ, the hope and calling of its members was not prophesied by the men of old. Therefore Paul speaks of this distinctive ministry as "The unsearchable riches of Christ." Ephesians 3:8. "Unsearchable" means "**untraceable**" and has the meaning of "**unprophesied,**" not made known to other ages and generations.

So the Body of Christ, and the heavenly position and possession of members of this Body, were not prophesied; but they were predestinated: "According as He hath chosen us in Him before the foundation of the world, that we should be holy and without blame before Him in love. Having predestinated us into the adoption of children by Jesus Christ to Himself, according to the good pleasure of His will." Ephesians 1:4 and 5.

"Moreover whom He did predestinate, them He also **called**: and whom He called them He **also** justified: and whom He justified them He also glorified." Romans 8:30.

Thus we see that all the way from foreknowledge to glorification, salvation is of God, and is by His grace from beginning to end: "Who hath saved us, and called us with an holy calling, not according to our works, but according to His own

purpose and grace, which was given us in Christ Jesus before the world began." II Timothy 1:9.

But there is also the human responsibility: Note Romans 10:13 and 14:

"For whosoever shall call upon the name of the Lord shall be saved." "How then shall they call on Him in Whom they have not believed? and how shall they believe in Him of Whom they have not heard? and how shall they hear without a preacher?"

And I Corinthians 3:8:

"Now he that planteth and he that watereth are one: and every man shall receive Ms own reward according to his own labour."

So frequently we hear the question, "how are we to reconcile 'predestination' and the 'whosoever' message?" They are both God's truths, Bible doctrines. Preach them and let the Holy Spirit do the reconciling.

PART II - FOUR OTHER WONDERFUL VERSES

"FOR THE GRACE OF GOD THAT BRINGETH SALVATION HATH APPEARED TO ALL MEN.

TEACHING US THAT, DENYING UNGODLINESS AND WORLDLY LUSTS, WE SHOULD LIVE SOBERLY, RIGHTEOUSLY, AND GODLY, IN THIS PRESENT WORLD;

LOOKING FOR THAT BLESSED HOPE, AND THE GLORIOUS APPEARING OF THE GREAT GOD AND OUR SAIOUR JESUS CHRIST;

WHO GAVE HIMSELF FOR US, THAT HE MIGHT REDEEM US FROM ALL INIQUITY, AND PURD7Y UN-TO HIMSELF A PECULIAR PEOPLE, ZEALOUS OF GOOD WORKS." TITUS 2:11 to 14.

What hath appeared? The grace of God. What else hath appeared? Jesus Christ. Read it in Hebrews 9:26 and Hebrews 2:9:

"For then must He often have suffered since the foundation of the world: but now once in the end of the world hath He appeared to put away sin by the sacrifice of Himself." "But we see Jesus, Who was made a little lower than the angels for the suffering of death, crowned with glory and honour; that He by the grace of God should taste death for every man."

Yes, once in the end of the ages Christ appeared. For what? To put away sin by the sacrifice of Himself. He was made lower than the angels. For what purpose? For the suffering of death. He was crowned with glory and honor that He might BY THE GRACE OF GOD taste death for every man.

So note the two wonderful statements: "the grace of God hath appeared to all men" and "Jesus Christ hath appeared and tasted death for every man." By the grace of God: **"For the law was given by Moses, but grace and truth came by Jesus Christ."** John 1:17. **"That as sin hath reigned unto death, even so might grace reign through righteousness unto eternal life by Jesus Christ our Lord."** Romans 5:21.

When did the grace of God appear? Let us find the answer to this important question in Ephesians 3:1 and 2: **"For this cause I, Paul, the prisoner of Jesus Christ for you Gentiles, If ye have heard of the dispensation of the grace of God which is given me to you-ward."**

"The dispensation of the grace of God" for Gentiles was given to the apostle Paul. Note his testimony in Romans 15:15 and 16: **"Nevertheless brethren I have written the more boldly unto you in some sort, as putting you in mind, because of the grace that is given to me of God."** **"That I should be the min-**

ister of Jesus Christ to the Gentiles, ministering the gospel of God, that the offering up of the Gentiles might be acceptable, being sanctified by the Holy Spirit."

Note again Paul's testimony in I Corinthians 3:10: **"According to the grace of God which is given unto me, as a wise masterbuilder, I have laid the foundation, and another buildeth thereon. But let every man take heed how he buildeth thereupon."**

Then we learn such important truth in Romans 11:30 and 15: "For as ye (Gentiles) in times past have not believed God, yet have now obtained mercy through their unbelief (through Israel's unbelief)."

"For if the casting away of them be the reconciling of the world, what shall the receiving of them be, but life from the dead?"

Yes, important truth this is; for here we learn that Paul went to the Gentiles with God's message of grace when and because Israel was set aside.

Perhaps you have pondered and wondered over Paul's statement in Acts 13:23: **"Of this man's seed hath God according to His promise raised unto Israel a Saviour, Jesus."** And Acts 13:46: **"Then Paul and Barnabas waxed bold, and said, It was necessary that the Word of God should first have been spoken to you (Jews); but seeing ye put it from you, and judge yourselves unworthy of everlasting life, lo, we turn to the Gentiles."**

Here we learn that Christ in His incarnation was Israel's Saviour and that after Christ's resurrection turned Paul to the Gentiles because Israel would not have the resurrected Christ to be their Saviour.