



**CAFÉ CHURCH DISCUSSION GROUP  
SERMON SERIES SUMMARY**

**REAL GROWTH  
BROTHER KING; TO BE CONFORMED  
Romans 8: 28-39**

**Foreknowledge;** who can be against us. Romans. 8: 28-39; 1 Peter 1: 1-5

**Three Foundations in Life:** A Living Hope; The Power of the indwelling Holy Spirit; and the Sovereignty of God

**Foreknowledge:** What it tells us about God; foreknown or foreloved

**Possible Questions to consider:**

1. How does the Holy Spirit living within us make a difference to our lives?
2. Does God's Sovereignty apply to all people and to all matters within the promise of Romans 8: 28?
3. Does foreknowledge mean that God has set His love on us from before creation or does it mean He foreknows those who will believe making this foreknowledge a basis for predestination?

**Predestined;** all things graciously given. Romans 8: 28-32; Ephesians 1: 3-14

**Predestination:** to set a destination for ourselves or for someone else. The Greek word, *prohorizdo*, means to set an horizon and set out for it; to mark off beforehand or to decide upon beforehand; we saw what we are predestined for. Predestination means we need to consider the doctrine of Election.

**Election:** emphasizes God's free choice of individuals to salvation. It is an act by God before creation in which He chooses some people to be saved because of His sovereign good will and pleasure. We considered our free will and God's sovereignty together with Salvation and Election. We looked at the dangers of *Hyper-Calvinism* (a logical step beyond God's election of people to salvation is the theory that He must surely elect the others to destruction, Scripture does not teach this), and *Pelagianism* (the view that a person has the ability to choose good or evil, to choose to serve God or self, they can prepare themselves for glory or destruction). We considered John Stott's view that, "*If anyone is lost, the blame is theirs, but if anybody is saved the credit is God's. The antinomy (a paradox, a contradiction that is reasonable) contains a mystery which our present knowledge cannot solve; but it is consistent with Scripture, history and experience.*"

**Possible Questions to consider:**

1. What is the destination that God has set for those He calls and who love Him?
2. How does the doctrine of Election make you feel; what do you struggle with and what reassures you?
3. If God is Sovereign, are our choices free acts of will for which we are responsible?

### ***Real God, Real Church, Real Lives***

**Called;** no charge against us. Romans 8: 28-30, 33; 2 Thessalonians 2: 13-17; 1 Peter 2: 9-10

**Calling;** a general call and an effective call, the latter is evidenced by justification, belief and an eternal hope.

**Calling;** God's effective call and means of His calling. **Conviction;** who is convicted, of what and by whom. **Conversion;** we need to hear, learn and come to Jesus or Jesus is rejected

**Possible questions to consider:**

1. How does God's calling link to His foreknowledge and decision of predestination?
2. What is the purpose of the General Call, the Gospel call?
3. Are those called the ones referred to in Romans 8: 28 and therefore does it follow that they will be justified and glorified?

**Justified;** no condemnation. Romans 8: 28-30, 34. Acts 13: 32-41

**Justification;** the Greek word (*dikaioo*) and the Hebrew word (*sadaq*) literally mean to declare righteousness. It is a courtroom concept whereby justification means the pronouncement of a verdict of righteousness. It is more than forgiveness, acquittal or acceptance; it is a declaration, a verdict that we sinners are now righteous in God's sight; made right with Him in Christ.

**God Options:** to condemn, to compromise or to change (us)

**God's process of Justification:** the Plan; the Perquisite; the Price; the Position; and the Proclamation

**The Proof of Justification:** the truth of saving faith; we cannot justify ourselves; faith alone cannot save us; and the Joy of Justification.

**Possible questions to consider:**

1. Do works or faith as a works drive our relationship with God?
2. How might we ensure that the truth of justification gives us freedom and joy?
3. Do we take sin seriously enough (does legalism or liberalism affect our view)?

**Glorified;** more than conquerors. Romans 8: 28-30, 35-39; John 17: 20-26

**Glorification;** is essentially the glory of God; the manifestation of His splendour that we all fall short of. It means freedom from sin, new bodies, it applies to the whole of creation and will means an eternal process

**From Here to Eternity:** the need to set our hearts and minds on things above; the reality of sin and suffering as we battle our old nature and live as a new creation; the process of sanctification resulting in glorification as we are conformed to the image of Christ (F.F.Bruce, "*sanctification is glory begun; glorification is sanctification consummated*,"); it is not just about us though, it is about God's Glory, Love, Unity and Mission

**More than Conquerors;** the absolute assurance of the chain of affirmation

**Possible questions to consider:**

1. How can knowing our future transform how we live today?
2. How does eternity reassure us; what about it concerns us?
3. What is the absolute worse fate that can befall us; how do these truths negate that reality?

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