

“The Golden Chain of Salvation”

Romans 8:28-39

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Teaching Aim: To examine “*The Golden Chain of Salvation*” and see how each link in the chain points towards God’s work in our salvation. To understand salvation is a gift from God and not because of anything we have done. To recognize because our salvation is based on the finished work of Christ on the cross, the true believer can have full assurance of his or her eternal security. Because of our eternal security in Christ, we can have comfort during whatever trials we face in life.

DIGGING DEEPER INTO GOD’S WORD (*BIBLE STUDY*)

Part I: God is working in the life of every believer for our good (Rom. 8:28-30)

1. Why should **verse 28** be an encouragement to every believer in Jesus Christ? Why should this verse not be an encouragement to the unbeliever? (See **Ezek. 18:4; Rom 5:12; Heb. 10:30-31**) Who is referred to as “*the called*” in **verse 28**? What can we learn about the purpose of God from this verse? What makes the following statement so important to pastors and teachers today? “*You are responsible to believe and to teach what the Bible teaches, not what you would like for it to teach.*”

2. **Verses 29 and 30** list the five links that are known as “*The Golden Chain of Salvation.*” The first link in the chain is God’s foreknowledge. “*Foreknowledge*” simply means “*to know beforehand.*” What foreknowledge did God have according to **verse 29** and **1 Pet. 1:1-2**? Do either of these verses clearly state that God knew beforehand who would choose Him and predestined them on that basis, or do the verses simply state God foreknew who would be His elect unto salvation? What can we learn about God’s election from **Eph. 1:4-5**?

3. Does “*fallen man*” have within himself or herself the ability to choose to be saved? Why or why not? (See **Eph. 2:1-4; Col. 3:13-15**) Using a Bible concordance or a preferably a computer Bible program, look up every word in the New Testament that has to do with salvation and see if the Bible indicates man is in control of choosing God or if God is in control of choosing man. (Search the following words: foreknow; foreknew; foreknowledge; foreordained; elect; elects; elected; election; elects; predestined; call, calling, called, save, saved, salvation, etc.) Do you see a pattern? If so, what is it? **John 3:16** and **Rev. 22:17** are open invitations to everyone to come to faith in Christ, but according to **John 6:44** and **John 6:65**, what is the only way anyone will?

4. The second link in the process of our salvation is predestination (**vs. 29**). What is the meaning of “predestination?” (See Dictionary) How does predestination relate to our salvation? According to **verse 29**, what are two of God’s purposes in predestination? What does it mean for a Christian to be Christ-like? (See **1 Cor. 11:1**) If you were to describe someone who is Christ-like, what would their character and lifestyle be like?

5. What is the third link in the chain of our salvation (**vs. 30**)? Is this call referring to “*the external call*” of God through preaching, or “*the internal call*” (or the “*effectual call*”) of the Holy Spirit to salvation? (Hint: A thousand out of a thousand will answer this call, none are lost – **John 6:39; 10:27-29**)

6. What is the fourth link in “*The Golden Chain of Salvation*” (**vs. 30**)? From a theological standpoint, “*justification*” describes the process of God declaring the guilty sinner not guilty. When does this justification occur? What is the fifth and final link of our salvation according to **verse 30**? What do we mean when we say that a Christian will be “*glorified*”? So certain is the salvation of God’s elect that each link is stated in the past tense as if it has already happened. This teaching lays the foundation for every true believer in Christ having the assurance of salvation.

Part II: If God is for us, who can be against us? (Rom. 8:31-34)

1. Why should **verse 31** be an encouragement to every Christian facing the struggles of life? Why are regenerate (or born-again) Christians in a win/win situation no matter what we face in life?

2. What incredible act of love did Christ do for us while we were still enemies of God (**vs. 32**)? (See **Rom. 5:8-10**) What is the point of Paul’s argument in **verse 32**?

3. **Verse 33** shifts to a courtroom scene. In this particular case, who is on trial? Who is the accuser? (See **Rev. 12:10**) How do you think it would feel to be on trial for a crime worthy of the death? That is exactly what is happening in this scene for the Christian. According to **verse 33**, who is the only one who can justify or declare us righteous?

3. Who will be doing the judging on the great Judgment Day (**vs. 34**)? (See **John 5:22,27**) According to **verse 34**, what did Jesus do so that His followers won't be condemned on Judgment Day? What role has Jesus taken for those who have put their trust in Him? (See **1 Tim. 2:5-6**) Did Christ pay the penalty for our sins in full while on the cross, or will we still have to continue to pay ourselves? (See **Psa. 103:11-12; Rom 5:8-9; 8:1; Heb. 9:12-15**)

4. What four things do we find Jesus doing for us **verse 34** to assure our salvation? What is the significance of Christ's death on the cross? How about His resurrection? What is the significance of Jesus being seated at the right hand of God in Heaven? Why is this important for us today? How about His intercession for us as our great High Priest? What does this mean for you personally? What connection does **Heb. 9:24-28** have with **verse 34**?

Part III: Nothing shall be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus (Rom. 8:35-39)

1. With the kind of security we now have in Christ, "*Who shall separate the believer from the love of Christ (vs. 35)?*" What seven possibilities did Paul list in **verse 35**? What facets of life do these suggestions cover? Will any of the listed items be able to separate us from the love of Christ? In **verse 36** Paul used **Psalm 44:22** from the LXX (The Septuagint – The Greek Old Testament) to demonstrate that God's people have always suffered for following Him. What does Jesus promise the believer in **Matt. 5:11-12**? How was the prayer of Jesus for His disciples in **John 17:14-17** a demonstration of this?

2. What are Christians called in **verse 37**? Why? The Greek word for "*conquerors*" literally means "*super-conquerors*." In what way is every Christian a "*super-conqueror*?" According to **verse 37**, what is the source behind our ability to conquer?

3. In **verses 38 and 39**, Paul lists 10 things that will not separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus, what are they? What is Paul ultimately saying to us through his persuasion?

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| 3. | 8. |
| 4. | 9. |
| 5. | 10. |

4. How can a person know if he or she is saved or not? (See **John 14:6; Rom. 3:23; 6:23; Rom. 5:8-9; John 3:16; 10:9-11**) If you are among those whom “*God*” foreknew, predestined, called, justified, and glorified, you are eternally secure in Jesus Christ. (See **John 6:39-40; 10:25-29; Eph. 1:3-14**) Why not take a moment and thank God for this incredible salvation found only in Jesus Christ? If you have not received Jesus as Savior and Lord, why not repent of your sin and do so right now in prayer?

MINER’S CORNER ~ *Manna to live by!*

- No matter what the born-again (or regenerate) Christian is going through, he or she can know with certainty that God is working behind the scenes for their good.
- “*The golden chain of our salvation*” consists of five links: God’s foreknowledge, predestination, calling, justification, and glorification.
- In **verses 29-30**, “*the golden chain of our salvation*” is spoken of with such certainty that it is as if every aspect of it has already taken place.
- God plus us equals a majority no matter what we are facing in life.
- Jesus Christ is not only our Savior and Lord, but He is also our Judge and Defense Attorney.
- Nothing can separate us from the love of God which is in Christ Jesus our Lord.