

50 POSITIONAL TRUTHS

#49: “Glorified”

Although on an ontological level we will not be glorified until we are with the Lord in our resurrection body, positionally we are already glorified:

Romans 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;³⁰ and whom He **predestined**, these He also **called**; and whom He called, these He also **justified**; and whom He **justified**, these He also **glorified**.

Note the unbroken chain of grace blessings of the believer in the above passage: he was foreknown, predestined, called, justified, glorified. This chain refers to *all* Christians, the entire group of Christians from beginning to end, from foreknowledge to glorified. The entire group of Christians is brought into relationship with God in His eternal plan by divine foreknowledge. This foreknowledge is not knowledge that God simply foreknows *what* believers will do, but that God foreknows *them* personally. Foreknowledge refers to a meaningful relationship with God based on God’s choice. Every single Christian is brought into relationship with God in His eternal plan by divine foreknowledge and choice, and they are “predestined.”

Between the start and finish of God’s plan are three steps: being called, being justified, and being glorified, and in the process not a single person is lost. “Glorified,” like the rest of the verbs, is in the aorist tense because this final step is so certain in God’s eyes it is as good as done. This is God’s ultimate purpose for all believers. Regardless of where we are in our spiritual lives, we will be glorified. While we are not glorified yet, positionally we are as good as glorified—it is just a matter of time before we are with Him in glory. We are all one day closer to that marvelous event! One day we will no longer fall short of the glory of God.

What a marvelous plan of God! It is astounding to realize that God’s plan of salvation for people is a program that reaches from eternity past to eternity future which God will carry out perfectly. Positionally, we are marked out for full glorification before God. Again, it is just a matter of time when this will be an ontological reality.

This was not some opaque concept for Paul. Note the effect of the light of this truth on the mind of the apostle Paul. As he considers the implications of the certainty of our glorification, he asks six rhetorical questions (Rom. 8:31-37):

1. What shall we say to these things?
2. If God is for us, who can be against us?
3. Since God did not spare His own Son for us, shall He not freely give us all [necessary] things?
4. Who will bring a charge against God’s elect?
5. Who is the one who condemns God’s people?
6. Who will separate us from the love of Christ?

The point of Paul's extended set of questions is that nothing and no one can condemn the believer. Let us scotch anything that challenges our grace relationship with God. The believer is secure from eternity past to eternity future—from being in the mind of God in eternity past to a non-ending future glorification. The aorist tense says it is already done in the timeless mind of God. We also have the force of logical necessity from “being known” and “called” to “being glorified.” Wow! What a deal!

On the Glory Road,

Pastor Don