

Cornerstone Bible Church

Loved From Eternity

(Romans 8:29-32)

Survey of Romans part 29

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Introduction:

- The Gospel at face value is controversial.
 - * A stumbling block to Jews: God became man in Jesus
 - * Madness to the Greek: God became man in Jesus
- Today's passage is one of the most controversial about the Gospel: The Sovereign Work of God in Salvation.
- The Gospel “exalts the Glory of God and humbles the pride of man.”
- When we read today's text, we either make it read what we want, or we read it what it says.
- Paul wrote this to comfort believers, not to stir up controversy.

Text: Romans 8:29-32

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.

³¹ What then shall we say to these things? **If God is for us, who is against us?**

³² He who did not spare His own Son, but delivered Him up for us all, how will He not also with Him freely give us all things?

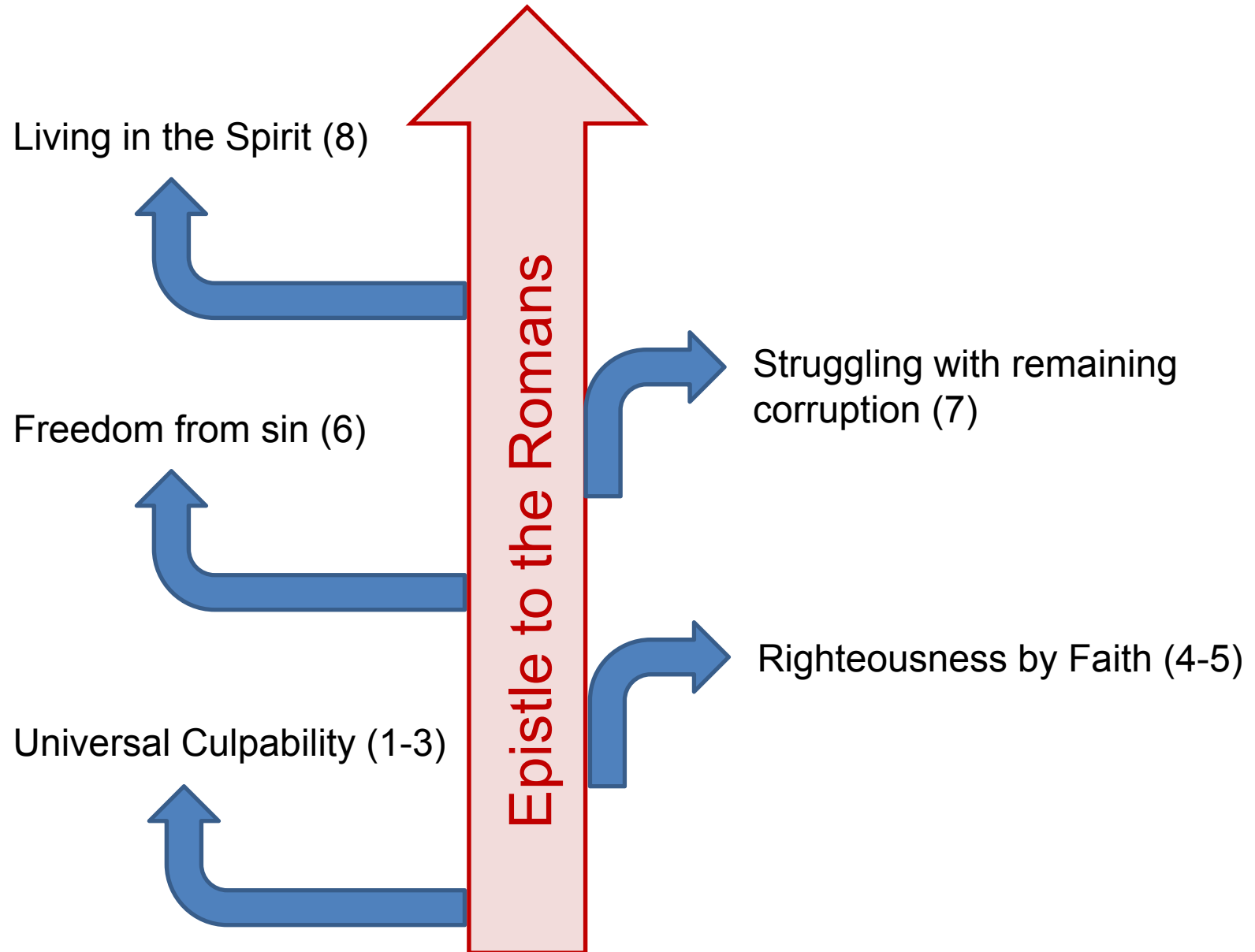
The Gospel Life in the Spirit



Review: The challenge of reading Paul, is that he takes large sweeps on certain subtopics (sometimes using large relative clauses); he has a direction, but like a mountain road, it zig zags.

Remember also that he dictated the letter to Tertius, and we talk more than what we write.

The Gospel



The Intercession of the Spirit

- He helps us in our weakness
- He intercedes for us

Led by the Spirit

- To freedom from fear
- To intimacy with God
- To hope in tribulation

No Condemnation in
Christ Jesus

Living in the Spirit (8)

Assured in God's Eternal
Purpose

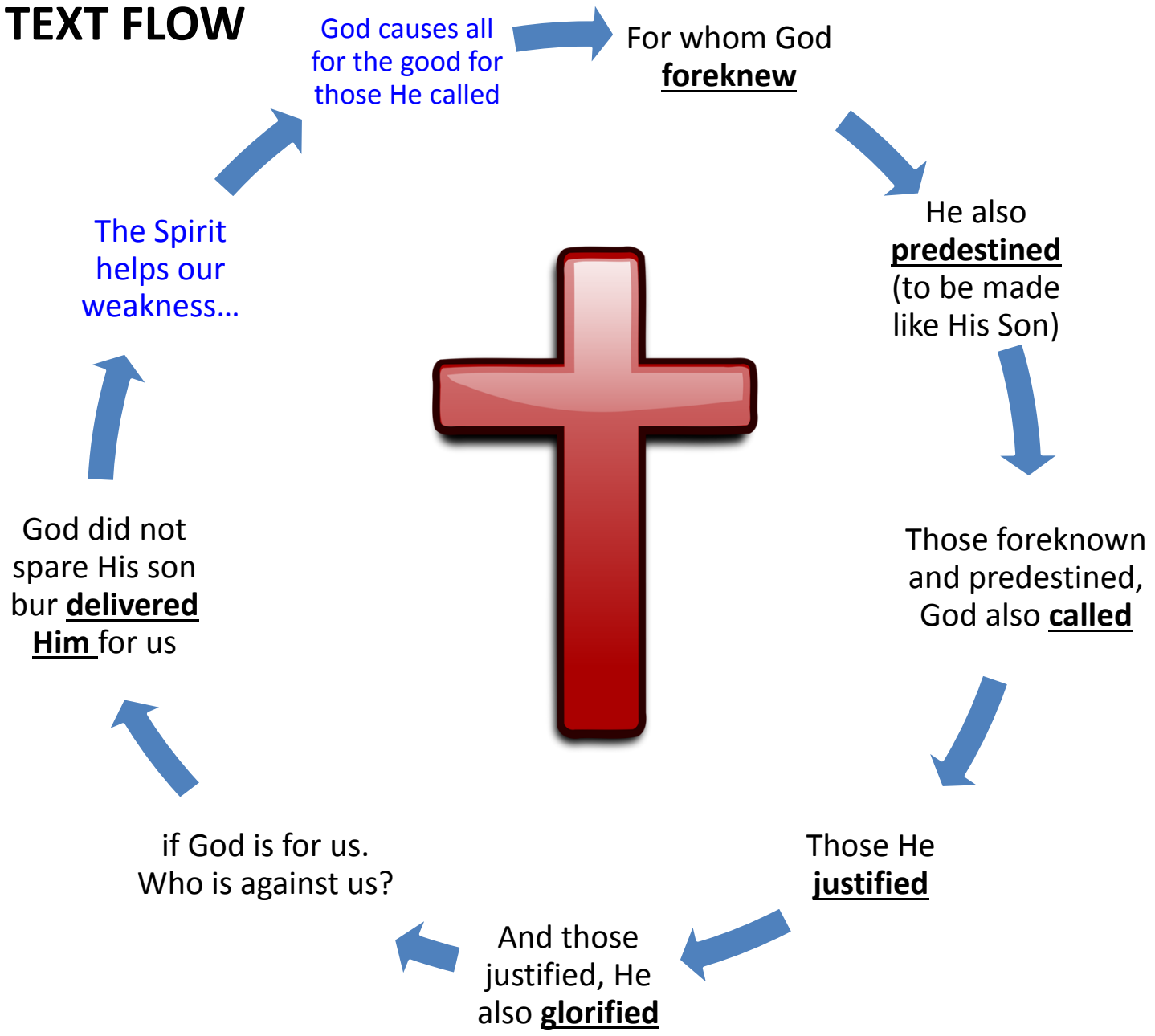
The Witness of the Spirit

- That we are children of God
- Of hope in our tribulations
- Reminding us of the Resurrection

Putting sin to death

- In the context of the Spirit's help and intercession for the believer...
- In our tribulations, we remember that, **“it is God who causes all things to work together for good, to those who love Him...”**
- **... to those who are called by His Name”**
- Then Paul introduces the parenthetical statement of verses 29-32.
- **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...**

I – THE TEXT FLOW



I – THE TEXT FLOW

1. For whom God foreknew.

2. He also predestined.

=> (to be conformed to the image of His Son that He might be the firstborn among many brethren)

3. Those foreknown and predestined, God also called.

4. Then He also justified them.

5. And those God justified, He also glorified.

=> What shall we say, if God is for us. Who is against us?

6. God did not spare His own son

8. but [God] delivered Him for all of us

9. And with Jesus, God will also give us all things.

II – OBSERVATIONS ON THE TEXT.

- a) It is unequivocally about what GOD did, does and will still do.
- b) The subject of the sentences, that conform a long parenthetical remark, is God.
- c) The active agent and executor of all verbal actions, is God
- d) The passive recipients and beneficiaries of the verb actions are us, “FOR us.”

III – THE CONTENTS OF THE TEXT

1. **Foreknowledge:** ²⁹ “For whom He foreknew”

- a) At face value, the verb means “to know from before”.
- b) Luke used the exact same form in Acts 26:5 when he writes that the Jews knew Paul from his days as a Pharisee, before his conversion to Christianity.
- c) 2 Peter 3:17 uses it to state that those who read his letter, knew in advance, about the end of the world. That’s the plain meaning of the verb.
- d) Now I ask rhetorically, how does the Bible use the verb “to know”?

III – THE CONTENTS OF THE TEXT

1. **Foreknowledge:** ²⁹ “For whom He foreknew”

e) How does the Bible use the verb “to know”?

- Genesis 4:17 says “Cain knew his wife and she became pregnant.”
- Genesis 4:25 “Adam knew his wife again” and she became pregnant.
- God told Israel in Deuteronomy 9:24 “You have been rebellious since the day I knew you.”
- Luke 1:34 Mary told Gabriel she could not be pregnant because she did not know a man.

III – THE CONTENTS OF THE TEXT

1. **Foreknowledge:** ²⁹ “For whom He foreknew”

e) **How does the Bible use the verb “to know”?**

- Matthew 1:25 says that Joseph, “did not know Mary”, until she had Jesus, though they already had met and been engaged.
- Matthew 7:24 Jesus says there will be people who will claim having prophesied and done miracles in His Name, but He will declare to them: “I never knew you, depart from me you evildoers (workers of lawlessness).”
- If it is intellectual knowledge, then how did Jesus know they were evildoers?

III – THE CONTENTS OF THE TEXT

1. **Foreknowledge:** ²⁹ “For whom He foreknew”

e) How does the Bible use the verb “to know”?

- To know in Scripture, may mean something more than cognitive apprehension.
- It also means sexual intercourse, selective love, or relationally intimate love.
- “Foreknowledge” in Romans 8:29 means selective love from before. *proe,gnw / pro,ginoskw*
- Some Christians say that “foreknowledge” means “PRE-SCIENTIA” (being cognizant ahead of time). They say that God knew we would obey and that’s why He chose us.

III – THE CONTENTS OF THE TEXT

1. **Foreknowledge:** ²⁹ “For whom He foreknew”

e) How does the Bible use the verb “to know”?

The Bible says the exact opposite in 1 Peter 1:1-2

“...**chosen, according to the foreknowledge of God the Father,**
by the sanctifying work of the Spirit, that you may obey Jesus
Christ and be sprinkled with His blood.”

- This is **selective, sovereign** and **non-solicited** love from God
- It is completely **unearned, unmerited** and **undeserved**; and it stems solely from the heart and free volitional act of God.
- It is unmerited GRACE, a free GIFT, this is the GOSPEL!

III – THE CONTENTS OF THE TEXT

1. **Foreknowledge:** ²⁹ “For whom He foreknew”

e) **How does the Bible use the verb “to know”?**

- Some rescue dogs from shelters and others adopt children from orphanages.
- God chose the unattractive, ugly, the sick and the despised.
- 1 Corinthians 1:26-29 “For consider your calling, brethren, that there were not many wise according to the flesh, not many mighty, not many noble; ²⁷but God has chosen the foolish things of the world to shame the wise, and God has chosen the weak things of the world to shame the things which are strong, ²⁸and the base things of the world and the despised, God has chosen, the things that are not, that He might nullify the things that are, ²⁹that no man should boast before God.”

III – THE CONTENTS OF THE TEXT

1. Foreknowledge: ²⁹ “For whom He foreknew”

e) How does the Bible use the verb “to know”?

- It is not that God knew we would love Him, He loved us first.
- 1 John 4:10,19 “In this is love, not that we loved God, but that He loved us and sent His Son to be the propitiation for our sins...¹⁹We love, because He first loved us.”
- Israel is an illustration of God’s selective love Deuteronomy 7:6-8: “... the LORD your God has chosen you to be a people for His own possession out of all the peoples who are on the face of the earth. ⁷“The LORD did not set His love on you nor choose you because you were more in number than any of the peoples, for you were the fewest of all peoples, ⁸but because the LORD loved you and kept the oath which He swore to your forefathers...”

III – THE CONTENTS OF THE TEXT

1. Foreknowledge: ²⁹ “For whom He foreknew”

e) How does the Bible use the verb “to know”?

- In Ephesians 1:3-5, Paul articulates this pristine and unmistakable terms:

³ Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places in Christ,

⁴ just as He chose us in Him before the foundation of the world, that we should be holy and blameless before Him. In love

⁵ He predestined us to adoption as sons through Jesus Christ to Himself, according to the kind intention of His will.

And that verse is our Segway into the next point from Romans 8:29, but that will be next week.

END
Questions?