

BIBLE LIFE MESSAGES

# Does God Have a Pre-Arranged Plan for You?

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Romans 8:28-39

**<sup>1</sup> Does God have a pre-arranged plan for you? He certainly does. It's found in Romans, Chapter 8, verses 28 through 39. <sup>2</sup>**

**And we know that in all things God works for the good of those who love him, who have been called according to his purpose. For those God foreknew he also predestined to be conformed to the likeness of his Son, that he might be the firstborn among many brothers. And those he predestined, he also called; those he called, he also justified; those he justified, he also glorified. <sup>1</sup> <sup>3</sup>**

**What, then, shall we say in response to this? If God is for us, who can be against us? He who did not spare his own Son, but gave him up for us all — how will he not also, along with him, graciously give us all things? Who will bring any charge against those whom God has chosen? It is God who justifies. Who is he that condemns? Christ Jesus, who died — more than that,**

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<sup>1</sup> v28-30.

who was raised to life — is at the right hand of God and is also interceding for us.<sup>2 4</sup>

Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? Shall trouble or hardship or persecution or famine or nakedness or danger or sword? As it is written: “For your sake we face death all day long; we are considered as sheep to be slaughtered.”<sup>3 5</sup>

No, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him who loved us. For I am convinced that neither death nor life, neither angels nor demons, neither the present nor the future, nor any powers, neither height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God that is in Christ Jesus our Lord.<sup>4 6</sup>

**You see, everything is working out for your benefit!  
And we know that in all things God works for the good**

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<sup>2</sup> v31-34.

<sup>3</sup> v35-36.

<sup>4</sup> v37-39.

of those who love him, who have been called according to his purpose.<sup>5</sup> How?<sup>7</sup>

## I. Is There a Pre-Arranged Plan? – v29

First of all, is there a pre-arranged plan?<sup>8</sup> We know from God's word that He knew beforehand that people would fall away. As unpopular as this theological thought is, you can fall away you know!<sup>9</sup> Lord Jesus said, If anyone does not remain in me, he is like a branch that is thrown away and withers; such branches are picked up, thrown into the fire and burned.<sup>6</sup><sup>10</sup>

First Timothy, Chapter 4, verse 1, says, The Spirit clearly says that in later times some will abandon the faith and follow deceiving spirits and things taught by demons.<sup>11</sup>

The Apostle Paul even stated, No, I beat my body and make it my slave so that after I have preached to

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<sup>5</sup> v28.

<sup>6</sup> John 15:6.

others, I myself will not be disqualified for the prize. <sup>7</sup>

The King James Version puts it this way, . . . when I have preached to others, I myself should be a castaway. <sup>12</sup>

Hebrews, Chapter 6, verses 4 through 6, states, It is impossible for those who have once been enlightened, who have tasted the heavenly gift, who have shared in the Holy Spirit, who have tasted the goodness of the word of God and the powers of the coming age, if they fall away, to be brought back to repentance, because to their loss they are crucifying the Son of God all over again and subjecting him to public disgrace. <sup>13</sup>

Since God knew beforehand that people would fall away, He also planned beforehand the means by which you could be redeemed! Notice again verse 29, For those God foreknew he also predestined to be conformed to the likeness of his Son, that he might be the firstborn among many brothers. <sup>14</sup> The word

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<sup>7</sup> I Corinthians 9:27.

**“predestined”<sup>8</sup>, in the original language, means to set the limits or boundaries beforehand. We get our English word “horizon” from this word. <sup>15</sup>**

**This does not mean that God chose individuals beforehand to be saved or lost. It simply means He pre-arranged the limits, the horizons, by which individuals could be saved. <sup>16</sup>**

**Romans, Chapter 16, verses 25 and 26 says, Now to him who is able to establish you by my gospel and the proclamation of Jesus Christ, according to the revelation of the mystery hidden for long ages past, but now revealed and made known through the prophetic writings by the command of the eternal God, so that all nations might believe and obey him. <sup>17</sup>**

**The Living Bible paraphrases it this way, I commit you to God Who is able to make you strong and steady in the Lord, just as the gospel says, & just as I have told you. This is God’s plan of salvation for you Gentiles, kept secret from the beginning of time. But now, as**

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<sup>8</sup> Προορίζω.

the prophets foretold & as God commanded, this message is being preached everywhere so that people all around the world will have faith in Christ & obey Him. God determined beforehand that those who obeyed the gospel message would be saved. <sup>18</sup>

This concept is reinforced in First Corinthians, Chapter 2, verse 7, No, we speak of God's secret wisdom, a wisdom that has been hidden and that God destined for our glory before time began. The gospel was God's wisdom which was revealed at just the right time. <sup>19</sup>

Again, in Colossians, Chapter 1, verses 25 through 27, I have become its servant by the commission God gave me to present to you the word of God in its fullness — the mystery that has been kept hidden for ages and generations, but is now disclosed to the saints. To them God has chosen to make known among the Gentiles the glorious riches of this mystery, which is Christ in you, the hope of glory. The

gospel plan, Christ in you, was God's word in its fullness. <sup>20</sup>

## II. What is the Pre-Arranged Plan? – v29

What is God's pre-arranged plan? First, <sup>21</sup> that you would conform to the image of His Son. God had planned all along that people He created would be in His image and likeness. <sup>22</sup> God said, "Let us make man in our image, in our likeness, and let them rule over the fish of the sea and the birds of the air, over the livestock, over all the earth, and over all the creatures that move along the ground." So God created man in his own image, in the image of God he created him; male and female he created them. <sup>9</sup> <sup>23</sup>

After the fall, man and woman began becoming less and less of what God created them to be! The LORD saw how great man's wickedness on the earth had become, and that every inclination of the thoughts of his heart was only evil all the time. The LORD was grieved that he had made man on the earth, and his

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<sup>9</sup> Genesis 1:26-27.



**heart was filled with pain.** <sup>10</sup> <sup>24</sup> Man desperately needed a plan to get back to God's original purpose for him, God's image and likeness!

So how did God plan for you to conform to the image of His Son, His own image and likeness? <sup>25</sup> He planned for you to identify with His Son through this gospel message. <sup>26</sup> Romans, Chapter 1, verse 16, says, **I am not ashamed of the gospel, because it is the power of God for the salvation of everyone who believes . . .** <sup>27</sup> The initial identification with the Lord and His gospel message is your Christian baptism. <sup>28</sup>

His divine pre-arranged plan, then, was that you would identify with His Son through your transformed life. Romans, Chapter 12, verse 2 says, **Do not conform any longer to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind. Then you will be able to test and approve what God's will is — his good, pleasing and perfect will.** <sup>29</sup> The Lord told His disciples, **If anyone would come after me, he must**

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<sup>10</sup> Genesis 6:5-6.

**deny himself and take up his cross and follow me.** <sup>11</sup>

The transformed life consists of renewing your mind and self denial. <sup>30</sup>

The goal of this plan is that Jesus would be the firstborn of many brothers! <sup>12</sup> Remember, you are adopted by God when you are in Christ.

A transformed life implies spiritual growth. It just doesn't happen instantly! The story is told of an old artist who was putting the finishing touches on his bronze sculpture. He was asked, "When will it be done?" His reply, "Never. I just keep working and working until they come and take it away!" That's the spiritual sanctification process; you just keep working away at getting back into the image and likeness of God until they take you away! <sup>31</sup>

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<sup>11</sup> Matthew 16:24.

<sup>12</sup> v29 - For those God foreknew he also predestined to be conformed to the likeness of his Son, that he might be the firstborn among many brothers.

### III. How Does the Pre-Arranged Plan Benefit You? – v30-39

How does this pre-arranged plan benefit you? <sup>32</sup> It benefits you, first, in its results. <sup>33</sup>

Verse 30 states, **And those he predestined, he also called; those he called, he also justified; those he justified, he also glorified.**

You are called. <sup>13</sup> The church is the result; those which have been called out and separated from others. <sup>34</sup>

You are justified. That means that God, the perfect judge, considers you “not guilty”. <sup>35</sup>

You are glorified. You are honored because of God’s favorable opinion of you. <sup>36</sup>

So, who can accuse you if God justifies you? After all, God is the Creator and, through Lord Jesus, is your Savior. Verses 31 through 33 says, **What, then, shall**

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<sup>13</sup> Καλέω. έξ and καλέω = to be called out from. The church, the Εκκλησία, is what results from this.

**we say in response to this? If God is for us, who can be against us? He who did not spare his own Son, but gave him up for us all — how will he not also, along with him, graciously give us all things? Who will bring any charge against those whom God has chosen? It is God who justifies. <sup>37</sup>**

**Verse 32 explains that the reason the Father allowed Jesus to die on the cross was so you could be justified. <sup>38</sup> Verse 33 says that those of you who respond to this plan become God's elect, His "chosen". <sup>39</sup>**

**So, who can pass judgment on you, or sentence you, when Jesus Christ intercedes for you? Verse 34, **Who is he that condemns? Christ Jesus, who died — more than that, who was raised to life — is at the right hand of God and is also interceding for us. <sup>40</sup>****

Intercede <sup>14</sup> means to “fall in” with you. So He petitions, intervenes and pleads your case with the Father. <sup>41</sup>

Because this is true, verses 35 through 37 continue, **Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? Shall trouble or hardship or persecution or famine or nakedness or danger or sword? As it is written: “For your sake we face death all day long; we are considered as sheep to be slaughtered.” No, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him who loved us.** Even in a rough life, when everything seems to be going against you, you are a super conqueror when Jesus waits at the end of it to welcome you home! <sup>42</sup>

Now, verses 38 and 39, **For I am convinced that neither death nor life, neither angels nor demons, neither the present nor the future, nor any powers, neither height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of**

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<sup>14</sup> Εντυγχάνω.

**God that is in Christ Jesus our Lord.** There is no external being or force, **anything else in all creation,** that can separate you from God's love and acceptance! <sup>43</sup>

**Does God have a pre-arranged plan for you? You bet He does! It's to make a way to have you as His child. You can decide to come to Him for eternal life, or walk away! Please make the right choice!**

**<http://biblelifemessages.org/>**