

Facing Your Future With Confidence

Romans 8:28-39

As a 21st-century British parent, I am – like you, perhaps – already living in a world of uncertainty, insecure about what the future holds. [So then] every choice feels like a gamble, every decision relies on making a prediction about an unpredictable future. To make a plan for a life in such circumstances feels like a fool's wager.

—Stuart Jeffries, *Welcome to the New Age of Uncertainty*

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1) The good is often misunderstood

2) The good is guarded by immeasurable love

I. THE GOOD IS OFTEN MISUNDERSTOOD
(v.28-30)

(v.28) We know that all things work together for the good of those who love God: those who are called according to His purpose.

In all things, God is conspiring for your good,
but that good is easily misunderstood.

(v.29) For those He foreknew He also predestined to be conformed to the image of His Son, so that He would be the firstborn among many brothers.

“Therefore we do not give up. Even though our outer person is being destroyed, our inner person is being renewed day by day. 17 For our momentary light affliction is producing for us an absolutely incomparable eternal weight of glory.” (2 Cor. 4:16)

“Everything is needful that He sends; nothing can be needful that he withholds.”

—John Newton

II. THE GOOD GOD IS GUARDED BY
IMMEASURABLE LOVE

We know that all things work together for the good of those who love God: those who are called according to His purpose. (v.28)

“Those who love Him...”

I believe that Paul had a special reason for using the term ‘love’ rather than the term ‘believing’ at this point. One of the best ways whereby we can decide immediately [if] we love God or not is our reaction to adversity...there are many people...who...when trials and tribulation arise...they give up. They feel they have been let down.”

—Dr. Martin Lloyd Jones

“Whoever has my commands and obeys them, he is the one who loves me”

(John 14:21)

“Called according to His purpose”

“Foreknew”

Predestined=To decide beforehand.

Justification is more than acquittal or even acceptance; it is a declaration that we sinners are now righteous in God's sight. He's transferred the righteousness of the firstborn (Christ) on to his brethren. He became sin with our sin so that we might become righteous with his righteousness.

Glorified

“All their life in this world and all their adventures had only been the cover and the title page: now at last they were beginning Chapter One of the Great Story which no one on earth has read: which goes on for ever: in which every chapter is better than the one before.”

—C.S. Lewis, *Chronicles of Narnia*

(v.31) What then are we to say about these things?

(v.31) “If God is for us, who can be against us?”

(v. 32) “He who did not spare his own Son . . . how will he not also . . . give us all things?”

(v.33) “Who will bring any charge...? It is God who justifies.”

(v.34) “Who is he that condemns? Christ Jesus,
who died ... was raised ... is also interceding for
us.” If

v.35) “Who shall separate us from the love of Christ?”

“We are more than conquerors” (v.37).

Take a moment to be silent. Consider the following questions:

- Have you responded to Jesus' Immeasurable Love?
- What's the basis of confidence for your future?
Can it be taken away?
- What is 'bad' in your life today? Are you willing to trust it to the One who promises in all things to "conspire for your good?"