

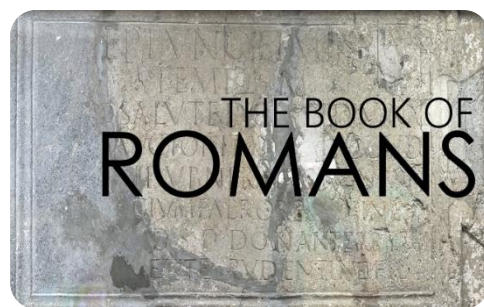
ROMANS 8 vs 29

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²⁹ **For whom He did foreknow** / the word is: **proginosko**; it is used 5 times in the New Testament. The word means: to know something **beforehand**; to **know previously** whatever. Peter, in his last words to the church, says, **Beloved, seeing you know these things before**.

So don't over-spiritualize this word. God is the **Alpha and Omega** -- easy to say; hard to imagine. And He knows **the end...** from **the beginning**. He's a little different than us. But like any good strategist, **God has a plan**. He says, Let Us make man... in Our image. Well, He really said, **Let us make Adam...** and all who come from him... **in Our image and Our likeness** -- **Genesis 1**.



I think Dr. Dallas Willard of USC; the great philosopher would be pleased to hear this very average student of his when I say: The image of God presupposes God's character. God is God... because of His power. Thankfully, He's a God of love.

And the point I want to make is: to be born of Adam... is a necessary condition; but **not** a sufficient condition to claim: **made in the image of God**. God created men and women able to give love freely... to Him and to one another. Love that is not freely given; love that is coerced... is not love.

God said, **Let Us make Adam...** and all who would come from him... **in Our image**. And that image included the ability to love freely; living on that trajectory -- on the path of love freely given... preferring one another perfectly... never veering from that way. God values individual freedom -- more than we can imagine!

For whom He did foreknow / for those He previously knew; God knew He was taking a great risk... to create individuals who would freely love one another, and who love Him. He is a risk taker; He values freedom. HE acts in faith.

For whom He did foreknow He also did predestinate / and don't over-spiritualize this word. The word is: **proorizo**; it's used 6 times in the New Testament. Do you ever predetermine your vacation plans? your weekend outings? your visit to grandma? Do you ever predetermine some plans? Of course!

Do they always turn out the way you thought? No! Nonetheless, they are predetermined. We are hopeful they turn out the way we planned. This word is always related to God determining something. And what did He decide beforehand? What did He determine in advance?

Let's hear it again: **Let us make Adam...** and all who come from him... **in Our image and Our likeness**. That is the itinerary God determined for everyone who came from Adam, that's our destination. Unfortunately, and rather early, some of His creation didn't want to go with God on the journey. Jeremiah 18 tells us: **The Potter's creation was marred in His hands**... as He was making it. And like cars crashing on the freeway; the freeway is free, right? But it might be a good idea, to stay between the lines, and not misuse the freedom of the freeway.

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For whom He did foreknow / and He knew those made in His image and His likeness... who would freely love Him, and love others, too.

He also did predestinate / He planned their itinerary in advance. Now, does that mean He planned us putting our left... or right foot first? Or picking our nose? Or scratching our butt?

No! He doesn't care about those things. Love... freely given will take care of those things... and many more.

He determined their itinerary; their destination; and it's all wrapped up in: [Let Us make Adam in Our image](#). Well, the first Adam... messed up; but the second Adam didn't.

For whom He did foreknow...

He also did predestinate

to be conformed to the image of His Son / to be fashioned to resemble His Son; so God had a failsafe plan; the second Adam; which is probably why God said early on: Have no images before Me. Because He already had one in view... that He dearly loves,

to be conformed to the image of His Son,

that He might be

the firstborn among many brothers / God wants a big family... made in THEIR image; like Father, like Son – sort of looking like where 2 or 3 gather together, right?

³⁰ **Moreover whom He did predestinate them He also called** / those He set on that journey of love, freely given. / many were called; the call went out to many:

and whom He called, them He also justified / He judicially declared them right:

and whom He justified, them He also glorified / Paul just told us a handful of highlights of the journey, from start to finish.

³¹ **What will we then say to these things?** / well! It sounds like God our Father has been busy, doesn't it?! He has not been snoozing!

But let's go on...

If God be for us / and it certainly sounds like He is for us; those whom He knew beforehand, whom He previously determined, and He called, and He justified, and He glorified,

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So... **If God be for us** / and He is,

who can be against us? / well, someone who is against God.

³² **He who spared not His own Son** / God did not work to redeem sparingly. He did not haggle to lower the cost, of the Substitute in our place,

but delivered Him up for us all / the price God paid to redeem fallen man... more than covered the cost; He lavishly paid the price. And you know, some might object, saying... Why this waste?

how will He not with Him also freely-give us all / the word is: **charizomai**; it means... **grace giving**; amazing grace giving... **freely giving**... at no cost to us.

how will He not with Him also freely-give us all?

Paul says, THEY already paid so great a price... THEY held back nothing; THEY are not going cheap! THEY will give us all we need... to complete the whole trip; to reach our destination -- over there, when we see Him face to face... made in the image of God.

And perhaps, that is why Jesus will say to some:

I never knew you; you workers of lawlessness.

The greatest law that exists is: to love God with all our heart; and to love one another as we love ourselves. To some, Jesus will tragically say, **I never knew you**... never at all... not at any time did I know you.

Were they lovers of self... rather than, lovers of God? Hm?

So then, they were **not** part of the itinerary. God did **not** plan them, wow!

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