

**BIBLE BAPTIST CHURCH OF ERIE**  
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**MAY 2, 2021**

**PART II**  
**“WHY WE BELIEVE - WHAT WE BELIEVE ABOUT SALVATION”**

**SERIES: The Foundations on Which We Stand -  
Why We Believe What We Believe!**

**ROMANS 8:28-30**

In our journey concerning Why We Believe What We Believe we, examined last Sunday what we believe about **Salvation** from **John 3** about the **New Birth** that Jesus both explained and then illustrated from **Numbers 21** to Nicodemus an exceptionally good, educated and religious man in Israel. Now today I want to go to **Part II** and speak this morning on **THE FIVE PILLARS OF SALVATION** also called **The Five Golden Links**.

Now here in Colorado with our bentonite soil before you can build anything on it you must go down deep and remove the soil or go down with concrete pillars to place the foundation on. The foundation is the most important part of your home and the same is true with our Salvation, there are Five Pillars of Salvation that we are going to examine from **Romans 8:29-30** this morning. We know that **V-28** is often quoted in times of difficulty and distress. This verse is for believers in Christ only. It also needs to be looked at in the light of its context.

**I. THE 1st PILLAR IS - THE SUPREME WISDOM OF GOD**

What is the first of these five pillars of salvation? Begin in **verse 29**, and look at this verse here - **Romans 8:29** - the Bible says, "*For whom he did foreknow...*" The first of the five pillars of salvation are what I call **THE SUPREME WISDOM OF GOD**. This verse speaks of the **foreknowledge** of God, the Greek word *pro'gi'nosko*. And, it sounds very much like our word *prognosis*, from which we get our word *prognosis* - comes from this Greek word. What is a *prognosis*? Well, if it deals with man, it's an educated guess. But, God's prognosis, God's foreknowledge, is not based upon guess or whim. God knows things before they happen. God dwells in eternity, and God sees the beginning, and God sees the end, and God sees everything in between, all at one time. And so, God **foreknows**. He just knows everything.

**II. THE 2nd PILLAR IS - THE SOVEREIGN WILL OF GOD**

Look at **V-29** again that says: "*For whom he did foreknow, he also did predestinate*". That is, God has predestined or pre-determined certain things to happen. Now, theologians have raced their theological motors talking about predestination. **What is predestination? Predestination means DETERMINATION**. And, when God predestined something to happen, all Hell can't stop it, because God has predetermined that He's going to do it. Now, does this mean, therefore, that some are predetermined, predestined, to go to Hell, and that others are predetermined and predestined to go to Heaven, and there's nothing we can do about it which is called Calvinism? Absolutely not! God wants all men too be saved according to the scriptures like **1 Timothy 2:3-6; 2 Peter 3:9, Matthew 23:37, John 3:16-18**. The Bible teaches both the sovereign will of God and the free will of man. These are not contradictory; they are mutual truths.

**III. THE 3rd PILLAR IS - THE SEEKING WORD OF GOD**

Look now at **V-30**. God seeks us. God calls us. This word "*called*" literally means, "**to issue a summons**." You see, God foreknows that we will receive Him. God predestines that those who receive Him are going to be like the Lord Jesus. And then, God sends His Word. God sends His gospel and the conviction of the Holy Spirit that brings salvation. Let me give you some scriptures that will make that very clear and plain—**2 Thessalonians 2: 13-14. Romans 10:17** says: "*So then faith comes by hearing, and hearing by the word of God.*" That is the CALL.

**IV. THE 4th PILLAR IS - THE SAVING WORK OF GOD**

Again, we see in **V-30**: "*Them he also called: and whom he called, them he also justified*". That's the saving work of God. Now, what is *justification*? Look at **Romans 3:24**. Simply stated it means, "God see us as though we had never sinned." It is God's act, whereby He declares those who have trusted in Christ to be as righteous as Jesus Christ Himself is righteous. It is a **legal term** meaning that a person is **GUILTY** and yet declared not **GUILTY**. Justification removes the guilt, you then are acquitted and made acceptable to God by faith in the Lord Jesus Christ. It is also "**freely**" – "without cause" by "**GRACE**". That is glory my friend. Also look at **Romans 4:5-6**. But I want to tell you, dear friend, this thing called *justification* is more than just pardon; it is promotion.

**V. THE 5th PILLAR IS - THE SETTLED WAYS OF GOD**

**V-30** tells us the Settled Way of God is, "*them He also glorified.*" He put it in the **past tense**—that is, it's already done; it's already settled in the heart and the mind of God. God doesn't see merely the present; God sees the future. And, right now, in the future, God sees you and I as **GLORIFIED**. There are people who think you can lose your salvation. Well, friend, whether you can lose it depends on how you got it. Now, if you got it by works, then I could understand how you could lose it by works, right? I mean, if you had to work in order to be saved, then, if your works fail, you're no longer saved. But, friend, if you get it by grace, then you're kept by grace.

Remember what Jesus said in **Matthew 7:21-23**. "*Not everyone who says to Me, Lord, Lord, shall enter the kingdom of heaven...*" And when we are saved, we are a New Creation in Christ because we have been Born Again (**2 Cor. 5:17**).