

Foreknown and Predestined

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. (Romans 8:29)

God foreknew and predestined those whom He chose (Eph 1:4) to be restored to the image of His son. This means we were all messed up – that we were not like His son. So He had to conform us. We are now in that process of being conformed, adapted, and adjusted by following Him. It is the same as if we follow the crowd — we will be like the crowd. We will be like the one we obey, or those we run with (Heb 12:1). If we run with the pack or yield to peer pressure, we will be in accord with them. We will be like them.

We, however, are to be in harmony with Messiah, to correspond with Him and follow His pattern of life. We are to be in compliance with the standards we have been taught (Phil 3:15-16). To be co-formed to Him is to be formed or shaped into His image. We are formed into His image, actually co-formed to be like Him. *Co-formed* means formed to Him as our mold. This is how sons are produced, sons who will build. They will prevail and bring about His kingdom (Isa 49:17).

And whom He predestined, these He also called; and whom He called, these He also justified; and whom He justified, these He also glorified. (Romans 8:30)

Rom 8:30 uses the word *glorified*. Glorification is the end of the process of being conformed to His likeness. Rom 8:17-18 – After the suffering is over, we will all come out like Him, like the Firstborn Son. This is how we will be in our resurrected bodies (1 Jn 3:1-3). This is for those who hear His voice (Jn 10:27-29).

Abraham was foreknown (Gen 18:19), and so is his seed. They weren't foreknown to merely exist on the earth. Rather, we are to fulfill our destiny. It is a pre-destiny, one planned by God – that we would be like His Son. Those of us who would ultimately be like Messiah Yahshua will be conformed to His image by following Him in this age. God the Father thought about us from eternity past – that we would be His sons in eternity future. We will be sons who are like His Firstborn Son, the pattern for all His sons (1 Jn 3:1-3).

We see that it is only through a purification process that we come to be conformed to His Son. We finally arrive to be like the Son. We are sons, but right now we are disobedient sons in training for the future rule of the universe. 1 Jn 3:3 – We will be pure as He is pure¹ — holy, clean, modest, undefiled, morally faultless, and without blemish (Rev 19:7-8; 3:4). Messiah's ability to overcome temptation (Heb 4:15) and remain pure makes Him our role model (Heb 4:16).

We, then, are to be as He is in the world (1 Jn 3:16-17). 1 Jn 2:6 – We are to love as He loved (1 Jn 3:23). He knew us before the foundation of the worlds (Eph 1:4; Heb 11:3). If this is true about Him and us, we must keep His commandments to know Him (1 Jn 2:3-5). That is, if we are the people in Rom 8:29-30, the people whom God thought of in a personal, saving relationship to be like Messiah.

How are you now? How will you be then? What must happen now to bring it about? We must undergo the same thing He had to – a baptism of the Holy Spirit and fire (Lk 12:49-50). Mt 1:21 tells us He will save us. But the ordeal He had to go through to redeem us was no light matter. And the Holy Spirit has to go through an ordeal to save us, that is, from our sins that we commit (Eph 1:13; 4:30). We actually grieve the Holy Spirit. He is grieved at our sins and our wayward ways, our nonchalant hearing Him speak to us. We must suffer to be those conformed sons.

Compatibility with Messiah

Remember Rom 8:29-30. You are pre-destined for this sonship. This means that if you were foreknown, you are also pre-destined to be conformed to the image of His Son. The phrase “to be conformed” indicates a transition, a process. This means suffering as Phil 1:29 says: *Just as sure as you were granted faith to believe, it is also granted to you to suffer on His behalf, for His sake* (Mk 8:35). We will see more clearly how to be worthy of Him in eternity, as Rev 3:4 says, “They were worthy.” To overcome and keep one's garment without stain requires suffering

¹ *Pure* is #53 in the Strong's Greek Concordance: from the same as #40; properly *clean*, i.e. (figuratively) *innocent, modest, perfect*: — chaste, clean, pure. Number 40 is the word for holy ones or saints.

on His behalf, for Him (Rev 19:7-8). Rom 8:31-39 – God is for us, and we are for Him. This is compatibility. This is what is required for all His sons.

What is suffering? Suffering is all things and everything that's happening in the Body of Messiah which conforms the predestined of Yahweh to be like His Son. All who are refractory are not the chosen ones (Pr 25:4-5; 20:26). Rom 8:29 – The word *for* is a conjunction that gives the reason, or introduces the reason for the assurance of verse 28.

Refractory Disciples

So there can be no reasoning by the true sons of God in training for the throne (Rev 3:21). We are now going through it – going through the basic training process – since we are in our apprenticeship program here in this age. So regardless of what happens to you, there can be no reasoning that will justify your negative response by leaving the community, etc., if you qualify for Rom 8:28. To be refractory proves that you disqualify yourself from purification. It reveals that you do not have the hope of 1 Jn 3:2-3. It means you are not called according to His purpose.

Rom 8:29 – For whom He foreknew He pre-destined to become sons of God. Sons equal to His Firstborn, of whom He is not ashamed to call them His brothers (Heb 2:11-14). This will happen through the suffering that it takes in this age, or even in the next age for those who were refractory to any degree, to be purified to become like the Son for the next age. 1 Jn 3:3 – Everyone who has the hope. Rom 8:17-19,24 – This word *saved* is the salvation of the Holy Spirit. This salvation (2 Ths 2:13) requires great perseverance (Rom 8:25,14-16). Without it, we can never regain the glory of God that Rom 6:23 rightly tell us we have lost (2 Ths 2:14).

Sometimes when we have our minds set on the flesh we can invalidate His work in us in this age (Rom 8:5-6). But if we truly are His sons, He will do His work in us... sooner or later. Heb 12:1 – The sin spoken of here is the kind of sin which causes us to become an invalid, having no cogency (persuasive power) or legal force. Having a conclusion that does not follow from its premise, we are rendered weak and ineffective. Our force of effectiveness is taken away

and we are taken captive to do the evil one's will (2 Tim 2:26). When that happens our sonship is invalidated for this age and the next age, overthrown by the enemy – cancelled for the coming age (Dan 12:2). They are nullified and undermined.

1 Jn 3:8 – Either Messiah will undo the evil one's work in our lives, or he will undo our works. Even if he does we are still pre-destined to the throne in the Eighth Day. It is our destiny. But, as we said, if we grieve the Holy Spirit (Eph 4:30), our ordeal awaits us after the judgment of the Body of Messiah (2 Cor 5:10; Lk 12:46; Mt 18:35).

To invalidate His work in us is to grieve Him. We can't invalidate the work Messiah did to redeem us, if we belong to Him. But we can invalidate the Spirit's work in us now going on (Gal 5:16-26). Paul said we could receive the grace of God in vain. (2 Cor 6:1). We do not want to be invalidated (#2756, Gal 2:2), and our lives rendered of no account, having lived for no purpose. Then we would miss the benefit and purpose (1 Cor 15:2) of our great salvation.

Assimilating the Truth

2 Cor 6:2 – *Behold, now!!! Today!!!* Today is the day to go to the throne of grace to get the grace allotted to you! Today, if you hear His voice (Heb 3:8,15; 4:7; Num 14:16,18,22). It is according to how you hear, and what you hear (Mk 4:24; 8:18). Heb 2:1 – All hear physically, noise at least, but what they spiritually hear determines their destiny (Num 14:16; Mk 4:24). Those who receive and assimilate truth will have their capacity for understanding enlarged, and their knowledge will increase (Dan 12:2,10). Those who disobey and are indifferent will lose whatever ability for understanding they had, and therefore will continue in darkness (Dan 12:10; Mt 13:14; 18:16; Jms 1:23-25; Jn 10:16; Lk 10:16; Jn 12:47-48; 18:37; 1 Jn 4:6; Rev 22:17; Jn 10:27; 8:47; Mt 7:24,26; 13:19,20,22-23; Lk 6:47,49; Jn 5:24; Rom 10:16-17).

Jn 10:27-30 – These are those who are as Rom 8:29-30 says. Jn 10:16 says that Lk 10:16 is the same thing. They will hear my voice (Rom 10:16,17,8,14,15; Jn 5:24-25; 1 Jn 4:6; Jn 18:37; 10:3,8; Rom 10:15; Jn 13:20; Rev 3:20).

Our Master said that we would never draw the wrong conclusion (Mk 4:24). Take heed how and what you hear, lest we draw the wrong conclusion. If one does, there is no way he can draw the right conclusion after he is dead. *Conclude* means end, final, finished. It is the decision that is fatal, decisive.