

I. Only God offers guaranteed future glory.

A. Financial Planning services

1. First:
 - a. IRAs/interests/gains
 - b. Then the accounts went flat
 - c. Then the planner went out of business
2. Then
 - a. New planner, new company, new accounts, new strategies
 - b. Time to time consultations
 - c. “Don’t worry. Everything is going to be fine.”
3. Problem
 - a. I’m sacrificing today for future glory and my financial planner, as good as he is, is not
 - (1) All knowing
 - (2) All powerful
 - (3) Ever present
 - (4) Planner is not God
 - b. If only he were all these things, I would know that the outcome of my investments would far exceed both my expectations and my dreams

B. In the realm of the Spirit, we who have invested our faith and our lives in Christ have been promised a future glory of incomparable worth

1. Paul, full of the Spirit of God, inspired to write the word of God
2. Tells us that the pain and sorrows of this life, the trials and tribulations, the suffering that comes with truly following Jesus in this sinful, broken world do not even begin to compare with the glory that will one day be revealed in us.
3. That’s not unlike my financial planner saying, “Dale, make the sacrifice, invest your life savings in this mutual fund, give it all up for this one stock, and the dividends will be beyond any you can imagine.”
4. I want proof.
 - a. Creation waits for our future glory
 - b. Christians groan for our future glory
 - c. Comforter intercedes for future glory
 - d. **I want a proof from God who I know alone controls my future.**

II. Our Creator Acts for Our Future Glory (How?)

Romans 8:28 (ESV) *And we know that for those who love God all things work together for good, for those who are called according to his purpose.*

A. All things work together for good: the overarching, all encompassing sovereignty of God

1. Everything in creation and life, regardless of its quality or content, fits into the larger purpose of God who created creation in order to fill it with the experiential knowledge of His personal glory
2. “Good”
 - a. More than merely temporary pleasantness
 - b. Means morally, reasonably, spiritually perfect in alignment with the person

- and purpose of God
- c. The full and ultimate realization
 - (1) Of God's good purpose
 - (2) Of God's good person
 - (3) Of God's good promise (to save to the uttermost)
- 3. **God's eternal purpose, the good for which He is working in you and in the world is your future glory!**
 - a. v. 29 to be conformed to the image of His Son in future glory
 - b. So that Jesus might be the firstborn among many brothers in future glory
- B. For those who love God and are called according to His purpose**
 - 1. **God's purpose is to rescue lost sinners and bring them to future glory.**
 - 2. When God calls a person, He issues a divine decree
 - a. Not an invitation to be considered
 - b. but
 - (1) a divine decision to be embraced
 - (2) an authoritative command to be obeyed
 - (3) a predetermined condition to which we must conform
 - 3. God's decree for your salvation, for forgiveness, freedom, and for future glory is an act on His part that engages His supreme intelligence and sovereign decision making for your benefit
 - a. God's decree for your salvation and future glory is
 - (1) eternal, sovereign, infallible
 - (2) immutable, unconditional,
 - (3) specific, comprehensive, mysterious
 - (4) good, wise, Christ-centered, God-glorifying
 - b. **God's decree for your salvation and future glory is God expressing in time what He has held and loved and treasured and purposed for all eternity: that you be saved from sin and attain at the resurrection a future glory like the glory of Jesus Christ.**

III. How should we respond to the fact that God Himself acts in time and eternity to bring us to faith in Christ and to future glory?

A. Why resist?

- 1. God backs up His decree for your future glory with the essence of His own perfection.
 - a. "This is me. This is my love at work in you for you, for your future glory."
 - b. "This is me extending my joy to you, choosing you, calling you, causing everything in you and around to you pave the way for your future glory in Christ with me."
- 2. So why do we resist?
 - a. We say,
 - (1) What if I'm not good enough?
 - (2) What if I haven't done enough?
 - (3) What if I don't have faith enough?
 - (4) What if I'm not worthy of love enough?
 - b. In these questions, the pronoun is the problem.
 - (1) The decree of God, born in the heart and mind of God from before the creation of the world, is based on Him, not you.
 - (2) You say, "What if I'm not good enough."

- (a) God says, “This is my beloved Son in whom I am well please. Listen to Him.”
- (b) Jesus says, “The Father and I are one, and we know you are not good enough; that you cannot be good enough. That’s why I’m here. I got this for you!”
- (3) You say, “What if I haven’t done enough?”
 - (a) Jesus spread out His hands to be nailed to the cross and in the moment He died cried out, “It is finished.”
 - (b) What more could you possibly need to do more than He did?
- (4) You say, “What if I don’t have faith enough?”
 - (a) Jesus says, “If you have the faith of a mustard seed you can move mountains.”
 - (b) The Spirit says, “You are saved by grace through faith and that not of yourselves; it is the gift of God.”
 - (c) God gives you the faith to move the mountain of sin and guilt from your life. How can that not be enough faith?
- (5) You say, “What if I am not worthy of love enough?”
 - (a) God says, “I have loved you with an everlasting love.”
 - i) He loved you before there was you.
 - ii) He loves you while you are becoming you.
 - iii) While you were still ignorant of God’s grace and lost in your sin and guilt, God demonstrated the depth of His love for you by sending His Son to die on the cross for you.
 - iv) How much more worthy of love do you think you have be than the worth of the life and blood of the Son of God?

B. This is your moment in time.

1. A storm is coming. Batten down the hatches.
 - a. Could be a storm in life
 - b. Could be the inevitable storm of death
2. The ferocity of suffering and death are calmed by the decree of God for your present salvation and future glory.
3. Stop resisting the decree of God and start believing, start trusting.
4. Stop being afraid of limits you have set on yourself that God has not set on you.
5. Put your faith in Jesus, answer the decree of God, and trust Him.