

The Golden Chain of Salvation (Part One)

Theologians have coined the term "*golden chain of salvation*" from **Romans 8:29-30** (*foreknowledge, predestination, calling, justification, and glorification*) to affirm that our salvation originates entirely in God's sovereign love and purpose, from eternity past to future glory. God takes the initiative in rescuing us, not because of anything in us, but because of His nature as love. This Scriptural passage calls us to embrace the mystery of God's sovereignty and our redemption, which prompts us to live a life more focused on worship, holy living, and faithful evangelism. **Romans 8:29-30**: "*For those whom He foreknew, He also predestined to become conformed to the image of His Son, so that He would be the firstborn among many brothers and sisters; and these whom He predestined, He also called; and these whom He called, He also justified; and these whom He justified, He also glorified.*" Some pastors and Christians avoid discussing the doctrine of election because it seems unfair. But it's in the Word of God, and whatever's in the Word of God should be preached and discussed. Furthermore, the doctrine of election offers comfort to all who believe in Jesus, providing full assurance that God will work for our good. **Ephesians 1:4**: "*just as He chose us in Him before the foundation of the world, that we would be holy and blameless before Him. In love.*" We are in Christ before the foundation of the world. This is that eternal act of God, which involves the gathering of His people according to His plan. This eternal act of the Trinity: God the Father, God the Son, and God the Holy Spirit, begins in eternity and continues into everlasting life and heavenly glory. It is brought to completion when God gathers His people and brings them to Himself in the new heavens and the new earth to dwell with Christ forever. We must note a couple of things about this golden chain: it is identified with God and with God alone. It is not God doing His part and man doing his part, or God and man working together, cooperating in man's salvation. These views are not Scriptural. The emphasis is entirely upon God; it is His work before the world was formed, from eternity past. He determined, planned, and predestined the destiny to the end. And it is because this is exclusively God's work, not any work of man, that it can be said there is "*now no condemnation.*" Why? Because God did it, not man. **Romans 8:1**: "*Therefore there is now no condemnation at all for those who are in Christ Jesus.*" Does this mean we can do whatever we want or live however we please? No, we all know that's not true. **Philippians 2:12-13**: "*So then, my beloved, just as you have always obeyed, not as in my presence only, but now much more in my absence, work out your own salvation with fear and trembling; for it is God who is at work in you, both to desire and to work for His good pleasure.*" The salvation spoken of here is a warning to avoid the dangers and traps in life that hinder us from doing the will of God. He gives us the power to carry out that desire, yet only God can enable us to do so. We must do our part, and God will do His. However, this does not apply to our forgiveness of sins or redemption. These are completely the work of God.