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## SPEAKERS

Sam Hart, Pastor Jon Hueni

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Sam Hart 00:00

Please take your Bibles again to the book of Romans chapter eight. Our pastor has been preaching through this chapter. We have a short reading today, verses 28 to 30. Romans eight chapter, Romans, chapter eight, verse 28. And we know that in all things, God works for the good of those who love Him, who have been called according to His purpose. For those God foreknew, He also predestined to be conformed to the likeness of His Son, that He might be the firstborn among many brothers. And those He predestined, he also called those he called he also justified, those he justified he also glorified. Amen.



Pastor Jon Hueni 00:58

Well, if God's so great salvation is like a great mountain range, then Romans 8: 29, and 30 is like the very top of the tallest mountain where the view is breathtaking. Because from here, this vantage point we're given to see all the way back into eternity past, to the very beginning of our salvation in the heart and mind of God, His loving choice, and predestination of us before the world began. But also from these heights, we can turn and look into the unending future of our salvation that awaits us that we've just sung about at our glorification, that stretches on through the endless ages. And between the beginning of our salvation and the eternal past, the beginning in the eternal past and the future of our salvation in unending eternity, we're also given to see two aspects of our salvation that occur in this present age, during our lifetimes, namely, calling and justification. And so together, we have these five links in this unbroken chain of salvation. And all five are said to be the work of God Himself. Something he does, and that's what makes it so certain. This is what God does. And all those that he for knew us, He predestined us, He called us He justified us, and He glorified us. It's put in the past tense, because in the mind of God, it is as good as done. And all those he for knew He also predestined, and all those He predestined, he also called and all he called he also justified, and all he justified, he also glorified, which means that there's no losses along the way, zero, none fall off the plan of salvation from the beginning to the end. None he foreknew and predestined, who will not also be called justified and glorified. So I say what an amazing passage this is, it has to be divine. Because Who but God knows the beginning and end, and all in between? and speaks to us about it, as certainties. Now sadly, and I mean, sadly, this glorious passage that

we're looking at this morning, has been used more for theological arguments than for its original purpose. And I must confess that myself. The original purpose of why this passage is in our Bibles is to give encouragement and absolute assurance to every Christian, every believer in Jesus, everyone who has been united to Christ by saving faith. So let's not jerk this passage out of the garden in which God has planted it. It's found in what is perhaps the greatest chapter of the Bible. A chapter that from beginning to end is full of the sweetest encouragements, that if we are in Christ, then we can know there is no condemnation for us. And if we are in Christ, we can know that the love of God can nothing can separate us from that love of God which is in Christ Jesus, our Lord, and therefore we have the strongest statement after statement of assurance of our salvation. Each one of these have come as hell deserving sinners to Jesus Christ. They came with nothing good to say for themselves to commend themselves to His grace and forgiveness. And they threw themselves upon the mercy of God in Christ alone, put all their trust for salvation in Him, who he is, the eternal Son of God become man, what he's done, His perfect life, His atoning death, his glorious resurrection. That was all their trust. And so by faith, they have been joined to Jesus Christ in this indissoluble union that we just sang of they are in Christ, and will ever be in Christ. Now, where are we, in this glorious Chapter Eight of Romans. Remember last week in verse 28, we saw the amazing truth that we know that all things work together for good to those who are the called to those who, to those who love God, to those who are the called according to His purpose. Now, that means that then that we, as we saw last week, that even bad things, even evil things, even sinful things that others do to us, and that we do ourselves, indeed, all things, things that, that hurt, things that make us groan and weep, and think that everything is against us are nevertheless in reality, all being worked together for our good. Now, that is such a life transforming truth, that you cannot know it experientially and not live radically different because of it. Wouldn't you say that? - that if you woke up every day and knew that anything that can happen to me today will only happen if God is going to use it for my good. Isn't that a wonderful way to wake up? - to live every day of your life. What confidence what assurance what warm sunlight it throws on our darkest trials, what joy into our deepest sorrows and losses, what peace into all the perplexities and confusion that we face in life in a fallen world, and what comfort as we live with our own remaining sin yet within us, and our own brokenness, to know that in all these things, every last circumstance in my life, God is working it together for my good. We can say with Spurgeon, our troubles have always brought us blessings. And they always will. They're the black chariots of bright Grace, God promises to work them for our good. Now the measure of your enjoyment of that truth, the measure of the power of that truth in your life is according to Jesus, according to your faith, be it unto you. So if you have a great faith in this truth of Romans 8:28, it will give you great joy, great peace, great comfort. If you have a little faith. You'll have a little joy, and little peace and little comfort. You see, it's according to your faith, be it unto you. So we cry, I believe, Lord, help my unbelief. I want to believe this promise more, to my own good to my own joy, peace and comfort, and to your glory, as a man that takes you at your word. Now how does our faith grow, then? If the enjoyment of this truth is, is based upon our faith in it? How does our faith grow? Well, Romans 10:17 says, Faith comes by hearing, hearing the Word, the Word of Christ. So faith comes and faith grows not apart from the word, but in and by and through the Word. And it's precisely to strengthen our faith in the stupendous promise of verse 28, that the Holy Spirit has Paul write more words, in verses 29 and 30.

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Pastor Jon Hueni 09:39

This is God's stooping to our weakness. He knows this is an amazing promise if we ever get a hold of it and it'll change the way we live every day of our lives. And he knows how weak our faith is. So he he stoops and he says here, here's some more reasons how you can say we know

this is true. We know it because of this what he's telling us in verses 29, and 30. So let's receive it as such as food for faith. There's truckloads of food, in these two verses for our faith, for our greater joy, peace, comfort and confidence and assurance in God. In fact, the further encouragement to our faith actually begins at the end of verse 28. We didn't really have time to look at it last week. So we're going to see the end of verse 28, this morning, and then move on as these encouragement flow through verse 30. And this encouragement comes in the limitation that is placed upon the promise for whom do all things work together for good? well, clearly not everyone. And the text limits it, it's to those who love God. And we looked briefly at that last week. But it's not just for those who love God, it goes on to say to those who have been called, according to His purpose, the called according to His purpose. Now, these aren't two different groups, that you have those who love God, and then you have those who have been called according to His purpose. No, those are just two things that describe the the one group of people for whom God works all things together for good. They love God. And they have been called according to His purpose. Now, it's that last phrase of having been called according to His purpose, that adds tremendous assurance, to verse 28, and the promise, so let's see how this works. In the first place, let's consider God's purpose. That's what it says, We have been called according to God's purpose. God never works without purpose or plan. Everything he does every single thing he does, he does to fulfill some purpose in his heart and mind. Now, we too, have purposes and plans that we're pursuing, don't we? Reasons for what we do for everything we do. Now, we may not be aware of it. But you can believe that behind everything we do, there's some purpose to why we've done it. So God has purposes we have purposes. But one of the big differences, the huge difference between God's purposes and ours is this, God accomplishes all that he purposes to do. Whereas many of our purposes failed to come to pass. Last year, I purposed to have fresh green beans all summer long with a staggered crop. But Peter Rabbit had other plans and purposes for those beans. And so my purpose was frustrated. It was foiled, it didn't happen, how many of the things that you plan to do last month, were somehow left still on the Things To Do list, you plan to do them but something happened, something failed, because at some, sometimes those purposes fail, because we just give up on it. We give up on it. And we change our mind, well, I'm not going to do that anymore. Other times, they fail because of things that happen beyond our control, like Peter Rabbit, we're learning to control him. But it's it's you get what I mean, it's beyond your control. And that's our limitation. God has no such limitations. And it's against this backdrop of our own failed purposes that we see the greatness and majesty of our God that he does, whatever pleases Him in heaven and earth in the sea and all their depths. There's no place in the whole universe where God's purposes will fail. Why? Because he's reigning over everything in heaven and earth. We had in our memory verse for today, Daniel 4 :35. He does as he pleases with the powers of heaven and the peoples of the earth. No one can hold back his hand. Does he purpose who can stop him? No one. Now the beauty is that God even uses the attempts to stop his plans as the very means to fulfill his plans. We don't have time to look in that but but you can see how the devil was was working to destroy Christ and and the plan of salvation and yet God just uses his plan to bring him to the Cross and there to defeat Satan. He uses the very attempts to foil his plans to fulfill them what Satan means for evil, he works for good. That's our God. And the Bible never wearies of telling this to us. There have been and there still are many people, many nations many devils trying their best to frustrate God's purposes and plans. But just the opposite occurs, Psalm 33:10 and 11. The Lord foils the plans of the nations. He thwarts the purposes of the people, but the plans of the Lord stand firm forever, the purposes of his heart through all generations. Isaiah 46:10 to 11 this is something that God says, sets me apart from anything else, there is none like me, because of this, what is it, Lord? Well, I make known the end, from the beginning, from ancient times, what is still to come, I say, my purpose will stand, and I will do all that I please. From the East I summon a bird of prey from afar off land a man to fulfill my purpose He raised up Cyrus, the Persian, a man to

fulfill my purpose, what I have said, that will I bring about what I have planned, that will I do. Now that's a characteristic of God alone. And the New Testament is just as bold to tell us as the old is Ephesians 1:11. We heard it in the scripture reading, that in him that is in Christ. We were also chosen, having been predestined according to the plan of him who works out most things in conformity with the purpose of His will? No! He works out all things in the purpose, according to the purpose of His will. In other words, the outworking of his plan is exactly the same as the plan itself. There's not a shade of difference between what he planned and what he accomplished, what he purposed, and what he did. This is a God whose purposes cannot fail, or he simply is not God. He is not God Most High. Now, when did God purpose and plan to save you? Well, again, from this passage, we can look back into eternity past. We read it in Ephesians, one four, he chose us in Him before the creation of the world, to be holy and blameless in his sight. And predestined us to be adopted as sons because of his love. It was from the beginning, that he chose you to be saved - 2 Thessalonians 2:14. So God planned to save you before the creation of the world. But he effectually called you to salvation, w

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Pastor Jon Hueni 18:20

hen you heard the gospel and believed it believed on the Lord Jesus Christ, repented of your sins. So that's where God planned our salvation from eternity past. Second Timothy one nine God who has saved us and called us to a holy life, not because of anything we have done, but because of his own purpose, His purpose and grace. It was because of his own purpose, that he powerfully called you to this holy life in Christ. So as Romans 8:28 says, You were called according to purpose to His purpose. Well, this then you can see is another reason why we know beyond the shadow of a doubt, that God works all things together for our good because those he call, he also justifies those he justifies he also glorifies.

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Pastor Jon Hueni 19:22

That's the ultimate good, out of which he's working all things together for he never fails to accomplish his purpose. It's the Heidelberg Catechism Question and Answer number one, rejoices that Jesus Christ protects me so well that apart from the will of my Father in heaven, not a hair can fall from my head, indeed, that everything must fit his purpose for my salvation. What a way to live, to know there, that my salvation was purposed. And I've been called to Christ according to him. His good and gracious purpose. David knew this truth. He had a much smaller Bible than ours. And yet he, he could say in Psalm 57, two, I cry out to God most high to God who fulfills His purpose for me. He says the same in Psalm 138, verse eight, the Lord will fulfill His purpose. For me, there were many times that David did not look like he was going to be crowned the next king of Israel. That was God's purpose for him, he knew that he had been anointed, but for some dozen years, he's been chased like a rabbit by Saul in his army seeking to kill him. And yet David says, God's purpose for me will be fulfilled. And if you've been called to Jesus Christ, you can say it with the equal assurance that he who has called me according to His purpose, will fulfill that purpose in my glorification, one day. So verses 29 to 30. Go on, then to spell out in greater detail, just what that good purpose is for you, Christian. And in the future, we will be looking more fully at these words, each one of them. For that he for new us, He predestined us, He called us justified and glorify, but but for this morning, I just want you to focus in on God's purpose, for which he called you to Jesus Christ. If you know you're here, that he called you, and again, we'll look at calling but that means that not only has the invitation gone out to you come to me, you've actually come it's an effectual call. Because not everybody

who hears the call, is going to be glorified or justified. Now, this is an effectual call where you actually came to Christ, and trusted him and took him and became joined to him. And if you know that, then you can know that it was God's purpose, for which he called you. Now, I want you to know that in the first place, God's purpose and saving you as much more than to save you from hell. That seems to be all that many people want out of salvation, just a free GET OUT OF HELL card. They would be content to live their whole lives as slaves to sin, just as long as there's no hell to pay at the end. That way they get their cake and eat it too. And that only that attitude only proves that they have never been called to Jesus Christ. No, no salvation is from sin. That's why his name is called Jesus because he will save his people from their sins. And a life in slavery to sin is viewed by a Christian, a real Christian as a living hell. That's a change of heart. He's been called to Jesus Christ.

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### Pastor Jon Hueni 23:14

Now, it's true that rescuing us from the coming wrath is no small part of our salvation, in eternity separated from God in torment. That is a big deal. I'm not wanting to dismiss it, but it is by no means all of our salvation, nor do I believe it's the greatest purpose of our salvation. There are multiple purposes for God's saving us. But I want you to notice what Paul says right here in verse 29. Look at it in your Bible, when he's discussing God's purpose for calling us. He says in verse 29, for those God foreknew He also predestined, for what purpose? To be conformed to the likeness of His Son, that He might be the firstborn among many brothers. Did you know that God saved you and predestined you for this very purpose, that you might be conformed to the image, the likeness of Jesus Christ? Let's go back to the beginning and ask what what was God's original purpose in in creating man and woman mankind? How did he create him in Genesis 1:27, as we've been hearing in the Sunday school hour: God created man in His own image in the image of God, He created him male and female, He created them both in the image of God. To be created in the image of God is to be created in His likeness. Remember, when Jesus asked for a coin, and as the crowded question whose image or likeness is on the coin? Well, it was Caesars likeness. There was a resemblance between what was on the coin and the real Caesar. Even so mankind was made in the image of God to reflect his likeness in some ways to resemble God. Now there are significant differences between God and man. God is infinite, eternal, and unchangeable. And we are not. We don't share that similarity with God. But there are other ways that we have a likeness to God. We are creatures with a mind and a rationale, we can reason as God is a reasonable being, we have affections, we have a will. We're volitional creatures. And in these ways we reflect a God who has mind and rationale. capacity and affection, and volition. We're like God in that we're made for relationship God, for all eternity had relationship, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit within the Trinity. And when he made us, He made us for relationship with a capacity for a relationship with him, and then a relationship with each other, in marriage, and family and church and society. And then he also made us like him in that he gave us dominion, to rule over the creation, He put everything under our feet, all flocks and herds birds of the air, fish of the sea, he put it under us, that we might rule over it, a reflection of God's sovereign rule over heaven and earth. So in these ways we were made in His likeness. But most importantly, we were created in his moral likeness, which means that we were created upright, righteous without sin, capable of sin, which is something that's not true of our God. But we were made righteous. As we came from the hand of God, I should say, Adam and Eve, came from the hand of God, morally upright without sin. Well, then you know that Adam and Eve fell into sin. And when they did, this image of God and man was marred, it was defaced, it was disfigured. And every image bearing faculty of man was corrupted. And that's the fallen nature that Adam and Eve passed on to their sons,

and they passed on to their children, and to their children until you and I were born into this world. It was yes, there is something of the image of God that remains in us but it is marred, defaced and disfigured.

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Pastor Jon Hueni 27:47

So yes, we still have a mental capacity, a rationale, but our mind and understanding is darkened. We call light darkness and darkness, light and evil, good and good evil, our mind is polluted. Our affections are all disordered. We love what we should hate and hate what we should love. And things that should be way down here and priority number 10. And God should be number one, we've reversed them all disordered in our affections and our will we choose the wrong things. We choose what I want instead of what God wants relational, yes, we're still relational. But our relationship with God is shattered. sin has separated us from God, our relationships with each other marriage where his marriage today, where has marriage ever been? It is marred by sin. It is not perfect. We're broken. And it's seen in our relationships with children. We heard it in Sunday school. What kind of relationship is that, that would sacrifice our children. What about our rule and dominion? How do we use authority? Well, we either abdicate authority and don't raise our children in the nurture and admonition of the Lord or we become authoritarian despots. When we rule without love, and without servant, humble leadership. You see every faculty is spoiled because of our moral, lack of likeness to God. And that moral aspect influences every other aspect of our image of God. It's defaced. Its marred. Think of it as a beautiful original portrait hanging on a wall over in the Louvre. And it being severely vandalized. Somebody comes in and with knives, they slash it. They they paint over it, they they tear parts out of it. You can still tell afterwards. It's a human face. Yes, I can see that. But it's so damaged and defaced that you can't tell what that person really looked like that's something of the Fallen image and man. We, we have, yes, these capacities for greatness but they're, they're they're, they're marred they're twisted and corrupted. And this is, this is the, the identity crisis that's happening in our own day in a big way. Man was created to bear the image of God but But God's invisible we can't see him. And man who who was made in His image, is not what he wants was either. And now he's sinful and corrupt, with God's image defaced in him, vandalized by sin and Satan. No wonder we don't know who we are. Who am I? Am I a man or a woman or a cat or a unicorn? What is my identity? We don't know. Because where can we see the image of God? We can't see God he's invisible. We can't see man's bearing that image because it's all distorted, and, and destroyed, with little to see. I ask you did God just scrap His purpose and say, well, oh, well, that was a good idea. But I guess it just didn't work out. So that's it. No! his purpose cannot fail. Job knew it. I know that you can do all things, no plan of yours can be thwarted. And so God designed a way of salvation, with the very purpose of restoring in his image in fallen man. And central to this plan was sending his own eternal son in human flesh, who Colossians 1:15 says is himself the image of the invisible God. Hebrews one three, he is the radiance of God's glory, the exact representation of his beam, look at the image in him and look at God. And it's the exact representation. Here's the original painting, unmarred, in perfection.

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Pastor Jon Hueni 32:29

So in seeing Jesus Christ, the perfect God-man, we're seeing what we were meant to be as image bearers of God. And it's only through salvation in Christ, that God's image then is being restored in us. This is the end to which He predestined us to be conformed to the likeness, the



image of His Son, you see it there in verse 29. That was the end in view that we would be conformed to the image of Christ, who is the image of God. It's the purpose for which he saved us and called us that we might bear his likeness again. And it's the highest good toward which he is working all things together, to restore fallen man into the full image of God, when we're glorified. The Son of God came to be and became like us that we might become like Him, not in his deity, but in his perfect humanity, to once again realize why we were created what we were created to be, what our image is, what, what our purpose is. Ephesians 4:24, having put off the old self, the self we were born with, and having put on the new self, created to be like God, into righteousness and holiness. Salvation is a supernatural moral transformation, in which we're newly created to be like God, into righteousness and holiness, the new self which has been renewed and knowledge in the image of its Creator, Colossians 3:10. So God's recreating in Christ Jesus, a new humanity to fulfill his original purpose for a man that begins with a new birth with a new heart and, and then the makeover continues throughout our lifetime. Second Corinthians chapter three and verse 18, tells us something about the process. Listen to this. We speaking of us who are in Christ called to Christ, we who with unveiled faces, all behold the glory of the Lord are being transformed into His likeness with ever increasing glory, which comes from the Lord who is the spirit, the transformation into His likeness, his image is happening. From one stage one stage of glory to another - it's ongoing in the Christians life. So lost person if you want to find yourself, don't look within. You'll never understand the image of God by looking at the broken image that you are. No, look outside, look to Christ. You want to find who who you were made to be? Open your Bible and look at Jesus. See what, what it says about him because he's the perfect image of God. That's what we were made to be like Jesus. Don't consult your feelings. Consult God as His revealed Christ in the scriptures. He's the original pattern in which we become the image bearers. And Christians since this was God's predestinated purpose for all his called ones, you can be assured it's going to happen, that one day you will perfectly bear the image of God, likeness to Jesus without sinful thoughts, motives, words, actions, reactions, none of it. Reflecting the beauty of holiness found in our Savior. Paul says it in first Corinthians 15:49, just as we born the image of the earthly man, Adam, so shall we bear the likeness of the man from heaven, Jesus Christ. First John three, two, we know that when He appears, we shall be like Him, for we shall see Him as He is there again, it's seeing beholding his glory, that even now we're being transformed. And when we see Him face to face, we will be like Him. bearing his image perfectly, not just in our souls, but even in our bodies.

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Pastor Jon Hueni 36:55

The apostle Paul says in Philippians, 3:21, that we're waiting for the Lord Jesus Christ to come from heaven, who by the power that enables him to subdue all things beneath his feet, will will transform these lowly bodies, that they might become like his glorious body. You see this, this conformity to Christ is going on now in our souls, our hearts, our minds, and will and emotions, and it feeds out into our relationship with God and each other and the way we rule and handle the things God the responsibilities God's given us, but, but one day, it's going to permeate us throughout all that we are as body-soul creatures, we're going to be made like the Lord Jesus. And we'll have a body even that bears the likeness of His glorious bod.

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Pastor Jon Hueni 37:46

Ththree applications as we conclude, it's for you who love God, You who have been called according to His purpose, the first application is assurance. That's the whole reason for the

chapter. And here's the strongest assurance for your final salvations. Your final salvation. God says, He called you according to this very purpose, He predestined you to be conformed to the image of Christ, his son, and his predestined purpose will not fail, because He is God Most High. The work, which His goodness began, the arm of his strength will complete. And that glorification is so certain that he puts it in the past tense, it will happen. It says if it has happened in the mind of God, we're going to share in His glory, and in his perfect likeness, no longer from one stage of glory to another, progressively, at last, fully glorified, completed. And now to be enjoyed through the endless ages. That's the first application. Take this assurance to yourself. If you have been called to Jesus Christ, you've come to him. Take this assurance to yourself. Second: Pursuit. Be clear about God's purpose for your salvation, and then pursue it yourself. God's made His purpose for saving you very clear, it wasn't just to save you, to keep you out of hell. It wasn't just to keep you from all things painful and difficult in this life. It's to conform you to the likeness of His Son. It's to restore that fallen image of God in you through Jesus Christ. So if, if that's God's purpose that he is pursuing in your life, I need to ask you is that your purpose? Is that what you are chasing after with all of your strength to be conformed to the image of Christ? If you see if God is pursuing one purpose in your life and you are pursuing another, there's going to be nothing but conflict, frustration, disappointment and even anger at God like we saw in Jonah. No small part of our discontentment in life Christian, our lack of peace and joy can be traced right back to this, that my purposes and pursuits are at odds with what God's purposes and pursuits are. That's where the tension comes. His aim is to make you more like Jesus. And he sometimes uses sickness. He sometimes uses pain, hardship, disease, trials, suffering, loss, to bring you into greater conformity to Christ. But if you're not pursuing likeness to Jesus, you'll spend the better part of your energies and prayer, trying to get out of the school of affliction that he is using to make you more like Christ. Instead of learning greater likeness to Jesus, instead of enduring hardship as discipline that you might share in His holiness, you'll be discouraged and depressed. And chafing, that things aren't going your way. God's not treating you well, and you're a bit miffed at God, like Jonah was. The fact is, things are going exactly the way that God wants them to go. And as painful and difficult as they may be, and we all have those things in our lives, they are the very instruments that he's using to work together for your good. They're the ingredients in that delicious pie, the painful, disagreeable ingredients that he's working together for a good and glorious end to make you more like Jesus. So how do you pursue greater likeness to Jesus? You see, this is God's purpose for you. How do you get on board and pursue it? Remember what Second Corinthians 3:18 says, it's as we behold the Lord's glory, that we are being transformed, conformed to the likeness of Christ. It says, We, as we see him, as we contemplate him, we become like him. So are you daily beholding the glory of God, in the face of Jesus Christ, as he is revealed? In Scripture, this is where you meet Jesus. This is where you follow him through the roads of Galilee and, and through the streets of Jerusalem and you see him and as you see him, you become like him, which comes from the Lord who is the Spirit. The Spirit helps you read he, he shines his light upon the page over your shoulder, says, Look at Jesus, Jon. Look, look at him under stress. He's not worried and all fretting. Look at him over here. He's being falsely accused. He's not hitting back. Look at him here. Look how kind he is to this prostitute. Look how how good he is to this Pharisee who's who's trying to trip him. And as we see him, the Spirit works this same likeness of him into us. So are you are you daily coming and and having your look at Jesus? Are you walking through life with him are you doing all of life with him, you know, those who walk with the wise become wise. And if you walk with Jesus, you will become like Jesus, we become what we worship and, and if you're walking through life, worshiping Him and living with him, you become like him. So Jesus says, Come to me, and take my yoke upon you. Come on, stick your neck under the other side of this yoke, and, and walk with me and learn from me, who is gentle and lowly in heart, and you'll find rest for your soul. We we learn from him. We become like him as we walk with Him. In other words, conformity to Christ is to



happen in communion with Christ. It doesn't happen any other way. We've got to get to Jesus. We got to see him. We got to walk with Him, we kind of watch him. And it's through that process that the Spirit makes us more gentle and lowly, more forgiving, like he forgives, loving, like he loves serving like he serves doing good to others like he did to others. We are being conformed to him, as we see him. So assurance is the application, the pursuit and then And lastly, we have the chief end of man, the chief end of man, the chief purpose of our existence. You see, there's a higher motivation for your conformity to God's Son is higher than then finding your own fulfillment. In discovering what you were meant to be, that's a glorious thing, isn't it? To know who I am, or I'm image of God. And in looking at Jesus, I see, oh, that's what I was created to be like. And the more I become like Him, the more satisfactory life becomes the more of that fullness of shalom and blessedness and fruition, that that becomes ours. But there's something even beyond that. There's, there's a higher motivation, even behind our being conformed to Christ and our own happiness. And it's given at the end of verse 29, He predestined to be conformed to the image of His Son, so that he might be the firstborn among many brothers. So God's purpose in your salvation does not terminate on you, but upon the glory of his son, when God's purpose is fulfilled at the end, and making you like him, how his son will be glorified. You remember here on earth, he died in humiliation and shame, with only a few ragtag followers. And he has remained for some 2000 years now despised and rejected by this world, little more than a curse word in many hearts, but that in that day, in the day when we're glorified, and we we take on, and we will bear the full likeness of Jesus Christ, how the tables will be turned, as he is seen to be the firstborn of many brothers, that in fact, by his life and death, and resurrection, he was bringing many sons to glory. It wasn't seen there on the cross. It looked like failure, shame, humiliation, but in fact, he's bringing many sons to glory in this way. In fact, a multitude that no man can number. And He is the firstborn, the elder brother of this family of God in the Hebrew home, the the firstborn, was the one to receive the highest honor and glory, in the home privilege. There he is, on his throne. The perfect God man, Jesus Christ, having triumphed and gathered around him, is the sea of many brothers, that he is brought to glory. And they're all singing worthy, is the Lamb that was slain, to receive glory and honor and praise. And every last one of them, are perfectly bearing the likeness of their elder brother. So that he will become the firstborn of many brothers, brothers who are looking just like him, burying the family likeness, just like Jesus. And it's all because of Jesus. And in that day, all glory and honor and praise for conforming us to his image will go to Him and His glorious work of salvation. So when we're glorified, he will be glorified. When we're fully conformed to the image of Christ, He will be honored. And that's the chief end of man. That's the chief purpose, why we draw breath, why we get out of bed in the morning to glorify Him and enjoy him forever. That's the ultimate good for which he's working all things together in your life. There's more than our good at stake in this there's the glory of God's eternal son, will that not motivate us to pursue greater likeness to Jesus, that He might be glorified, that I might be one of those who are bearing that likeness, more and more in this life, but in that day, to the honor and the glory of Jesus Christ, will that not motivate you to to kill that sin, that stubborn sin? Will that not motivate you to to move out with him in love aggressively going after others taking his gospel, our conformity to Christ is to be sought then for the glory of Christ. To the Sandy came to this end, he lived and died and rose again, to bring many sons to glory. To that end, he's coming again. To take us to be to himself and and to see His glory, the glory that the Father gave Him before the creation of the world and there we will be a new, a new human family, who once again reflect the glory of His own image. May the Lord give us a heart for it and give us the joy of pursuing what we were made to do to His glory and praise. Let's take our hymnals and turn to number 460 460. We're going to sing the second tune. And in it we're going to cry out to God finish then thy new creation, pure and spotless let us be. Let us see that great salvation perfectly restored in thee. Here we are, we're in process we're here in the

middle and call but this is where we're going and and it's that hope that raises this prayer to God come and finish that good work you've begun in us Let's stand and sing it four six oh, the second tune.

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Pastor Jon Hueni 51:06

Father, we are indeed amazed that ever you would begin that work of salvation in us when we had nothing to commend ourselves to your love Only that which was obnoxious to your holiness and to your wrath. Thank you for your grace that that chose us and predestined us and has called us and justified us would you now. Continue that good work in us until we see you face to face Lord Jesus and that image is fully restored to your eternal praise to our everlasting good. Now may the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace as you trust in Him so that you may overflow with hope by the power of the Holy Spirit. Amen.