Clips from Psalms
Psalms 107:4-7
The Lord Delivers Men from Manifold Troubles

"Oh that men would praise Jehovah for his lovingkindness, and for his wonderful works to the children of men! For he satisfies the longing soul, and the hungry soul he fills with good."

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PREDESTINATION

“For whom he foreknew, he also foreordained to be conformed to the image of his Son, that he might be the firstborn among many brethren.” (Romans 8:29).

God had "foreknowledge" and he "foreordained" those who "love" him to be "conformed to the image of his Son" (see Romans 8:28). These foreordained Christ like people would have all things work together for good in their lives. Many believe that God predestined specific individual people to have these grand benefits and other specific people not to. The Calvinist doctrine of "unconditional election" teaches that some people, regardless of their personal desire, are chosen by God from birth to receive salvation. Let us consider what Paul is telling the Roman Christians within the context of this letter to find the truth regarding predestination.

First, let’s examine some definitions. To be "foreknown" (Greek proginosko) is “to know, perceive, learn, or understand beforehand, to foreknow or to judge beforehand” (LS 673). God had prior knowledge of those who would be conformed to the image of his Son. God also "foreordained" (Greek proorizo) these conformed people. The Greek proorizo means "to determine beforehand, to predetermine, or pre-ordain" (LS 682). God predetermined and knew beforehand that some people would be "conformed to the image of his Son."

David helps us have a precise understanding of how foreordination or predestination works in the word of God. David writes, "For God is with the generation of the righteous" at Psalms 14:5. The word "generation" in Hebrew is dowr and translated by the Greek Septuagint as genea (LXX 705). The Greek genea is defined as, "Characterized by quality, condition, or class of men" (Strong’s 1755).
Welcome to all Our Visitors. It is our prayer that you will be edified by our worship service today. If you have any questions regarding what we teach or practice please be our friend and talk with us.

We are sad to announce that Darlene York has passed away. Darlene died at about 2:00 AM Thursday morning. Funeral and memorial services will be held at Lunn's Funeral Home Monday, April 07, 2014 at 10:00 AM.

What does it mean to be "conformed to the image" of Jesus? The word "conformed" (Greek summorpsous) means, "of like form, assimilated, or conformed" (Moulton 383). The same word is used at Philippians 3:21 when Paul speaks of the saints body being conformed to Christ’s in its glorified state. The word "image" (Greek eikonos) means, “to be like, a material image, likeness, effigy, a similitude, representation, exact image, or resemblance” (Moulton 117). God knew beforehand that some would be assimilated or absorbed into the exact form of Christ and some would not be. Jesus was perfect, in respect to God’s laws, in every way (see John 8:46 and Hebrews 4:15). The law of God demands the same position of moral perfection in every man (Romans 8:4). The righteous will seek out moral perfection through the blood of Christ and the unrighteous will not (see Matthew 5:48; 1 Peter 1:15-16; 2 Peter 1:4 and 1 John 4:17 to name just a few passages that demand man’s moral perfection through the blood of Christ). God has thoroughly instructed man in the area of being conformed to the image of Jesus. We have not only the life of Jesus to study but also the lives of men such as Job, Noah, Abraham, and David. Though these men sinned they nonetheless were Christ like in that their purpose was not to sin (see Psalms 17:3).

Jesus is the “firstborn among many brethren” that seek moral perfection and eternal glorification with the heavenly Father. Jesus was the first to be resurrected to die no more (1 Corinthians 15:20). All who share in his life of moral purity and holiness will be “joint heirs” with him in the resurrection (Romans 8:17).

Psalm 70

1 Make haste, O God, to deliver me! O LORD, make haste to help me! 2 Let them be put to shame and confusion who seek my life! Let them be turned back and brought to dishonor who delight in my hurt! 3 Let them turn back because of their shame who say, “Aha, Aha!” 4 May all who seek you rejoice and be glad in you! May those who love your salvation say evermore, "God is great!" 5 But I am poor and needy; hasten to me, O God! You are my help and my deliverer; O LORD, do not delay!"