Known by God: Embracing the Power of His Foreknowledge

Romans 8:29-30

The belief that “God has a plan for those He knew in advance” is a significant aspect of theology. It is based on the idea that God, being all-knowing, knows every event and person. This message delves into the effects of this belief, its basis in scripture, and its impact on followers’ lives.

The depth and breadth of God’s knowledge are prominently featured in the Bible in **Romans 8: 29-30**, which says**, “For those God knew in advance He also predestined to be like His Son.”** This passage draws attention to two elements (fore) knowledge and predestination. Prior (fore) knowledge signifies that God, with His wisdom, knows who will respond to His call and embrace His grace. This awareness is not passive but active and purposeful, shaping the plan for humanity.

The idea of predestination further highlights that God has a purpose for those He knew beforehand. God wants everyone to be in His will. God does not force anyone to act or live in it. God is Omniscient, which means (He knows what will happen beforehand, but He does not control people’s actions.) Predestination implies that God has a **“desired”** predetermined path for all individuals that align with His will. This does not nullify free will; instead, it coexists with it, allowing individuals to make choices while often unknowingly being part of a broader divine narrative.

Believing that God has a predetermined plan for those He knew beforehand can offer comfort and reassurance to believers. It would also free people of the responsibility of their actions. It would eliminate the idea of sin because God would be controlling the things we do. We would no longer be responsible. What the idea of predestination does is give a sense of purpose and guidance in life, showing that their life is not an accident but part of a larger design. This belief can strengthen believers in times of difficulty as they have faith that their challenges have purpose and contribute to God’s overall plan.

When we understand predestination from this perspective, we are willing to deepen our relationship with God. Believers are encouraged to seek His guidance and align their lives

with His will, understanding that they are part of something beyond themselves. This relationship is characterized by faith, deepened by trust, and a growing commitment to live our lives according to God's will.

Faith plays a huge role in embracing the idea that God, through Jesus, has a plan for everyone He knew would accept Him as Lord and Savior beforehand. This means that God the Father knew who would accept Jesus before the world was even created. He empowered and aided those who sought his guidance through their decisions and choices to operate and live in His will.

Faith, deepened by trust, embraces God's plan for those He knew beforehand. Again, knowing beforehand means, **"God knew what you were going to do before you did it. However, He did not make you do it."** This faith involves trusting in God's ultimate goodness and power even when situations appear tough or uncertain. Sharing our stories with one another helps each of us grow our faith and trust in God. This helps us grow in understanding that God is involved in all we do.

So what does this mean? This means the idea that "God has a plan for those He foreknew" captures and expounds on a truth that provides believers with hope, meaning, and guidance. Grounded in scripture, this belief highlights God's all-knowing nature and His active involvement in people's lives. It prompts believers to have faith in His plan while growing their relationship with Him. Finally, this understanding empowers us to face life trials with divine assurance that God will work it out for our good. Recognizing our life story involves a God of purpose.

Blessings,
Pastor Gool