



OUR GOD IS WORKING

*Lesson by Ray Reynolds (8/10/2011)
GULF SHORES CHURCH OF CHRIST*

Text: Romans 8:28

Introduction: This has been a wonderful summer series! I have commended the previous speakers for their eloquence and ability to stay on subject. Let me remind you of the theme and the topics we have addressed so far in this summer series:

*Our God Is Awesome
Our God Is Powerful
Our God Is Eternal
Our God Is Gracious
Our God Is Spirit*

*Our God Is Wise
Our God Is Good
Our God Is Everywhere
Our God Is Holy*

*Our God Is Faithful
Our God Is Sovereign
Our God Is Loving
Our God Is Merciful*

There are so many others that we could have studied together:

*Our God Is Forgiving (Matthew 6:14-15)
Our God Is Patient (Romans 15:3)
Our God Is Hopeful (Romans 15:5)
Our God Is Peaceful (Romans 15:13)
Our God Is Comforting (II Corinthians 1:3)*

*Our God Is Self-Existent (Exodus 3:14)
Our God Is Self-Sufficiency (John 5:26)
Our God Is Just (Isaiah 45:21)
Our God Is Immutable (Hebrews 13:8)
Our God Is Honest (II Peter 3:9)*

If I had chosen the topic of God's honesty, I would have also noticed these promises of God:

*God's protection (Genesis 15:1)
God's faithfulness (I Samuel 12:22)
God's goodness (Psalm 84:11)
God's guidance (Psalm 25:9)
God's power (Isaiah 41:10)
God's provision (Isaiah 41:10)*

*God's purposes (Jeremiah 29:11)
God's rest (Matthew 11:28)
God's leading (John 10:4)
God's planning (Romans 8:28)
God's presence (Hebrews 13:5)
God's cleansing (I John 1:9)*

The topic that was given to me tonight is God's work. We are going to consider the work He is doing according to **Romans 8:28**. Let's notice some things from this text. . . .

Discussion:

I. THE CONSISTENCY OF GOD

"We know that in everything God works. . . ."

- * Who are some of your favorite Bible characters?

- * How can you see God working in their life?

- * Can we know that He was working in everything? Explain.

II. THE CHARACTER OF GOD

“God works for the good of those who love Him.”

- * God is working for the good.

Romans 8:31, I Corinthians 10:13, James 1:2

- * God is working for those who love Him.

John 3:16, John 10:7-17, I Corinthians 8:3

- * God's attributes are exemplary.

Romans 12:1-2, Matthew 5:48

III. THE CALLING OF GOD

“They are the people He called, because that was His plan.”

- * We are called to God's service.

Acts 2:36-39, I Corinthians 1:21-23

This is a high calling (**Philippians 3:13-14**), a holy calling (**II Timothy 1:8-9**), a heavenly calling (**Hebrews 3:1**), and a hopeful calling (**Ephesians 4:1-4**).

- * We are chosen according to God's plan.

Genesis 3:15, John 3:16, Matthew 28:18-20

- * We are predestined to be conformed into the image of God's Son.

Romans 10:4, Romans 10:11, Romans 10:13, Romans 11:11, Romans 11:32, Titus 2:11, II Peter 3:9, I John 2:2

IV. THE CREDIBILITY OF GOD

“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: and whom he foreordained, them he also called: and whom he called, them he also justified: and whom he justified, them he also glorified.”

- * We can find confidence.
- * We can find completeness.
- * We can find cause.
- * We can find condition.
- * We can find consequence.

Conclusion: It would be a HUGE mistake to think that God created us to do exactly what He wanted us to do. We are given freedom (free will, free moral agency, choice, etc.). If God created us without that choice it would mean that He is either inconsistent or He is a liar. Neither of which I am willing to accept. This passage is clear about God's motive and His heart for mankind. We can make it more difficult than it really is. The heart of this chapter is clearly for us to see that **God didn't finish with you at your salvation**. He will continue to shape you until you reflect His perfect image. The whole purpose of **Romans 8:28** is to teach us that God has an eternal plan and NOTHING will ever be able to change it! His plan is to save the world, and His work continues in us! This is why He has given us the Holy Spirit! Are you ready to be a worker for the Lord? Are you ready to follow Him?