

Message Nine

God's Organic Salvation (3)

Scriptures reading: Rom. 8:29-30.

I. Six aspects of God's organic salvation revealed in the book of Romans.**E. Conformation—Rom. 8:29; cf. Phil. 3:10.**

1. Conformation is the continuation and solidification of transformation; the stage of conformation is the stage of maturity in the divine life received through regeneration and worked into us through the successive steps in God's organic salvation.
2. In Rom. 8:29, predestination is linked with conformation, indicating that in eternity past the God who foreknew us also predestinated us to be conformed to the image of the firstborn Son.
3. Conformation is the end result of transformation; it includes the changing of our inward essence and nature, and it also includes the changing of our outward form, that we may match the glorified image of Christ, the God-man.
 - a. God's eternal intention is to have many sons for His corporate expression.
 - b. God predestinated us to be conformed to the image of His Son so that He might be the Firstborn among many brothers—John 20:17.
 - c. The Firstborn—the prototype—with the many brothers—the mass reproduction of the prototype—constitutes the corporate expression of the Triune God in Christ.
 - d. Now we, the children of God, are gradually being saved in His life, and as the divine life grows within us and transforms us, it spontaneously shapes us into the form, the image, of the firstborn Son of God.
 - e. To be conformed to Christ's image is the organic development in life in which we are saved in Christ's life from self-likeness, that is, from the likeness, appearance, and expression of the self; as a consequence, we no longer express the self but Christ.
 - f. Through the process of being conformed to the image of God's firstborn Son, Christ as the first God-man, we become a group

of God-men, the Lord's brothers, who are exactly the same as He is in life, in nature, in constitution, in appearance, and in expression but not in the Godhead and not as objects of worship.

- g. In the present age, this corporate expression is the Body of Christ and in eternity future, it will be the New Jerusalem—Rom. 12:4-5; Rev. 21:11.
4. The relationship between the law of the Spirit of life in Rom. 8:2 and conformation in verse 29:
- h. The law of life is the inherent power and spontaneous and automatic function of the divine life within us.
 - i. The function of the law of life is not mainly to regulate us from doing wrong in our behavior; rather, the primary function of the law of life is to conform us to the image, the form, of God's firstborn Son so that we may become the same as He is.
 - j. As the divine life is growing in us and as we are being saved organically in this life, the law of life functions to shape, conform, us to the image of Christ.
- F. Glorification—8:17, 30; 2Thes.1:10.
- 1. Rom. 8:30 says "and those whom He predestinated, these He also called; and those whom He called, these He also justified; and those whom He justified, these He also glorified."
 - 2. Presently, the indwelling Christ is our hope of glory—Col. 1:27.
 - a. The hope of not being brought into a realm of glory objectively but a hope also of being permeated with the element of God's glory subjectively until He bursts forth from within us in glorious manifestation, comparable to the blossoming of a flower.
 - b. The divine life within us is a life of glory, and eventually this life will reach full maturity, at which time the matured believers will be glorified from within through the lifelong saturation with the glory of God and from without through their being brought into God's glory—Heb. 2:10.

3. Glorification is the step in God's complete salvation in which God will completely saturate our body of sin, which is of death and in mortal, with the glory of His life and nature according to the principle of His regenerating our spirit through the Spirit.
 - a. In this way He will transfigure our body, conforming it to the resurrected, glorious body of His Son—Phil. 3:21.
 - b. This is the ultimate step in God's complete salvation, wherein God obtains a full expression, which will ultimately be manifested in the New Jerusalem in the coming age.

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Reference Scripture Verses:

Rom. 8:29-30. **29** Because those whom He foreknew, He also predestinated *to be* conformed to the image of His Son, that He might be the Firstborn among many brothers; **30** And those whom He predestinated, these He also called; and those whom He called, these He also justified; and those whom He justified, these He also glorified.

I.

Phil. 3:10 To know Him and the power of His resurrection and the fellowship of His sufferings, being conformed to His death,

John 20:17 Jesus said to her, Do not touch Me, for I have not yet ascended to the Father; but go to My brothers and say to them, I ascend to My Father and your Father, and My God and your God.

Rom. 12:4-5. **4** For just as in one body we have many members, and all the members do not have the same function, **5** So we who are many are one Body in Christ, and individually members one of another.

Rev. 21:11 Having the glory of God. Her light was like a most precious stone, like a jasper stone, as clear as crystal.

Rom. 8:2 For the law of the Spirit of life has freed me in Christ Jesus from the law of sin and of death.

2Thes. 1:10 When He comes to be glorified in His saints and to be marveled at in all those who have believed (because our testimony to you was believed) in that day.

Col. 1:27 To whom God willed to make known what are the riches of the glory of this mystery among the Gentiles, which is Christ in you, the hope of glory,

Heb. 2:10 For it was fitting for Him, for whom are all things and through whom are all things, in leading many sons into glory, to make the Author of their salvation perfect through sufferings.

Phil. 3:21 Who will transfigure the body of our humiliation to be conformed to the body of His glory, according to His operation by which He is able even to subject all things to Himself.

Additional Verses on Glory

Cf) Acts 7:2 And he said, Men, brothers and fathers, listen. The God of glory appeared to our father Abraham while he was in Mesopotamia, before he dwelt in Haran,

Jer. 2:11 Has a nation ever exchanged its gods, Even though they are no gods? But My people have exchanged their glory For that which does not benefit them.

2Pet. 1:3 Seeing that His divine power has granted to us all things which relate to life and godliness, through the full knowledge of Him who has called us by His own glory and virtue,

1Pet. 5:10 But the God of all grace, He who has called you into His eternal glory in Christ Jesus, after you have suffered a little while, will Himself perfect, establish, strengthen, *and* ground *you*.

2Tim. 2:10 Therefore I endure all things for the sake of the chosen ones, that they themselves also may obtain the salvation which is in Christ Jesus with eternal glory.

Heb. 2:10 For it was fitting for Him, for whom are all things and through whom are all things, in leading many sons into glory, to make the Author of their salvation perfect through sufferings.

Rom. 3:23 For all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God,

Rom. 8:17 And if children, heirs also; on the one hand, heirs of God; on the other, joint heirs with Christ, if indeed we suffer with *Him* that we may also be glorified with *Him*.

Rom. 8:21 In hope that the creation itself will also be freed from the slavery of corruption into the freedom of the glory of the children of God.

Rom. 9:23 In order that He might make known the riches of His glory upon vessels of mercy, which He had before prepared unto glory,

2Cor. 3:18 But we all with unveiled face, beholding and reflecting like a mirror the glory of the Lord, are being transformed into the same image from glory to glory, even as from the Lord Spirit.

2Cor. 4:17 For our momentary lightness of affliction works out for us, more and more surpassingly, an eternal weight of glory,

1Tim. 1:11 According to the gospel of the glory of the blessed God, with which I was entrusted.

1Pet. 1:4 And when the Chief Shepherd is manifested, you will receive the unfading crown of glory.