

# Who Is Really in Control?

## Romans 8.28-30

In the newspapers this week, there were a number of story headlines which are fairly indicative of the current situation of our world and communities. What these stories and others like them have in common is an acute awareness of the evil in our world. It makes one wonder: "Who is really in control?"

Our text in Romans 8.28-30, clearly indicates that God is the one in control. And, as Christians, we are asked to believe that. In fact, Romans 8:28 is probably the most indirectly quoted Scripture in the entire Bible. It is generally paraphrased to go something like this: "Everything will work out in the end." But can you believe that?

When you examine closely what this verse says, you will find one of the most positive statements in the entire Bible about what God is doing in the midst of even the most terrible situations in life. Let's look at several characteristics of God's work in us.

### God's Sovereign Promise

*"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.**"* Romans 8.28

### We Have Been "Called According To His Purpose"

*"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." Romans 8.28-29*

### Five Undeniable Affirmations

*"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.**"*  
Romans 8.29-30

There is a providential process that he is taking us through as believers. Five undeniable affirmations are made in these verses.

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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**.

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