

Density

In the movie *Back to the Future*, George has a crush on Lorraine but is too shy to approach such a popular girl. He gets some tips from a friend, takes notes, and steels himself to ask her out on a date. It's very awkward at first, and Lorraine finally says, "Wait a minute, don't I know you from somewhere?" "Yes. Yes. I'm George, George McFly." He looks at his notes and recites confidently, "I'm your density." The camera pauses on Lorraine and you can almost read the words upon her face: "*He thinks I'm dense?*" She stares at him, puzzled. George flips open his notebook. "I mean... your destiny." She smiles, and they live happily ever after.

For those of us who believe in Jesus, we too have something to smile about when it comes to our destiny in Christ. This week we will read about God's good purpose for us, a purpose older than creation.

Monday – Good Love

"To love God is the greatest of virtues; to be loved by God is the greatest of blessings." Anonymous

1. Please read Romans 8:28-30. According to the first part of verse 28, what is God doing? For whom?
2. What does it mean that God works for our good? Name some of the ways that God is working his good.
3. Jeremiah 29:11-13 gives us a glimpse into God's heart for his people. What parallels do you see between that passage and Romans 8:28?

Making it Personal: Jeremiah 29:13 calls us to seek God with our whole being. Are you doing that? Pray for his grace and power to strengthen you in seeking him with all you have and all you are.

Tuesday – The Call

"Calling... contributes to a deep sense of identity that is formed by whose we are rather than what we do." Paul R. Stevens, *Everyday Christianity*.

1. Please read Romans 8:28-30. What does the second half of verse 28 say about God calling us to him?
2. Acts 9:1-22 (concerning Paul, who was then called Saul) and 1 Samuel 3:1-21 relate very specific calls. While audible conversations with God may not be typical, the purposes behind them are. What do these passages tell you about the plans God has for those he calls?

Scripture Insight - Call language in the Scriptures is used primarily for the people of God who are summoned to participate in God's grand purpose for the world. It is a corporate call in that we are summoned to be a community or people of God. It is a personal call in that God calls each believer by name. Take time today to thank God for his calling upon your life.

Wednesday – A Good Likeness

"I shall be satisfied with Thy likeness---satisfied, satisfied." Charles Wesley's dying words

1. Please read Romans 8:28-30. According to verse 29, whose image are we being conformed to? Who is doing the work of conforming us?

con-form (k?n-fôrm') To correspond in form or character; be similar.

2. In what way do you correspond to Jesus' character? What similarities, even if only slight, do you see?
3. What amazing promise do you find in 1 John 3:2? Does the prospect of seeing Jesus face to face fill you with joy or with fear? Why?

Digging Deeper: Read Exodus 33:17-23. As close as Moses and God were (vs. 17), what restriction did God put on their relationship? How does our future encounter with Christ (1 John 3:2) differ from Moses' encounter?

Thursday – Firstborn

"Jesus our brother, strong and good." From the 12th century French hymn, *The Friendly Beasts*.

1. Please read Romans 8:28-30. Who is the "firstborn" in verse 29?
2. See Colossians 1:15-20. How is Jesus Christ described here? According to verses 16 and 20, what has he done? What benefit have you received from his work on our behalf?
3. What does Revelation 1:4-6 tell us about Jesus' role as firstborn and how we are to share in this?

Making it Personal: Take time to reflect on who Jesus is and what he has done. Also, take the time to respond to him in thanksgiving and praise.

Friday – Foreknew, Predestined, Called, Justified, Glorified

"Oh, this is a reality, not a fable, that the Lord Jesus Christ is our friend. And we should not be satisfied till we are brought to this." George Mueller, 19th century English philanthropist

1. Please read Romans 8:28-30, Ephesians 1:3-12 and 2:8-9. What is God's role in establishing your relationship with him?
2. Now look at Jesus' own words in John 15:15-16. How do we become his friend? For what purpose is this friendship? How does that relate to Romans 8:28 and Ephesians 2:10?
3. According to Psalm 139:16, when did God become aware of the details of our lives? In verses 1-4, how intimate and extensive is his knowledge of our lives? Does this make it easier to understand how he could choose you before the creation of the world? In what way?

Prayer Focus: Many in the Body of Christ, his church, are confused about the purpose of our callings; some think it is merely so we are guaranteed a place in heaven. Pray for a clearer understanding of our purpose in bearing fruit for God here and now.

For the Weekend: Read Romans 8:28-30, Jeremiah 29:11-13 and Psalm 139. Ask God to guide you in understanding the riches of his grace in calling you into a relationship with him. Reflect upon and pray through the truth that God desires that you serve him according to his purpose.