

Behold the Beautiful:

What Kind of Fruit from "Doctrines of Grace"?

Pastor David O'Dowd

CPC, April 18, A.D. 2010

Series: Seeing **how** Jesus is your salvation will stir your love for him.

GOD KNOWS & CHOOSES HIS OWN TO FORESHADOW THE BEAUTY TO COME.

Review: What You Don't Know Can Help You!

We don't know how to pray as we ought in this time between Jesus' resurrection and ours, but God knows and sends his Spirit alongside us to bear and intercede, groaning on behalf of our groaning.

Because we know God works all things for good for those who love him (who he calls for his purpose) we know he will use all things—including suffering—to conform us to the image of his Son.

Deut. 29:29 *The secret things belong to God, but the things revealed...*

Be dependent: *lean on the Spirit who bears you up and along!*

ONE: The saints who love God are FOREKNOWN
8.29a

Rom

TWO: Those who are foreknown he PREDESTINED to be conformed...

Rom 8.29a

THREE: Those whom he predestined to be conformed he also CALLED

Rom 8.30a

FOUR: Those whom he called he also JUSTIFIED
8.30b

Rom

FIVE: Those whom he justified he also GLORIFIED
8.30c

Rom

Response: What kind of fruit do *the doctrines of grace* produce in you?

~~~~~

1. What has been "short-circuited" when knowing God has known & chosen you leads to smug satisfaction & apathy? Read Titus 3.4-7 & Eph 2.8-10.
2. How do we "short-circuit" God's working when we speak of being predestined for salvation but don't see that salvation includes *being conformed to the image of his Son* (Rom 8.29)? Consider Matt 5.16, 44-45; Phi 2.12-13.
3. To what purpose(s) does Jesus call disciples? What is God's purpose in calling Jesus to be the firstborn of many brothers and sisters?
4. Romans teaches that through the person and deeds of Jesus Christ God shows himself both just & justifier of those who have faith in Jesus (Rom. 3.26). How do those justified show God's wisdom in justifying produces beauty? Consider what was said of the church in Acts in the months after Pentecost? What made them attractive/beautiful to many in Jerusalem?
5. God promises that when the daughters & sons of God are fully adopted (and their bodies redeemed) all creation will be restored and beautiful again (Rom 8.20-23; Rev. 21 & 22). How can we who have hope encourage our neighbors who see beauty but also see violence and destruction all around? How can we see our neighbors as beautiful & point them to real hope?