

Second Hand Preacher 17th Sunday in Ordinary Time 7 30 17

Romans 8:28-30

Did you ever wonder who is really in charge? Is it your boss or the government? Are we truly in charge of our own destiny? Is there something more? As Christians we believe in a Triune God who gives us free will. God does of course know how we will choose and he loves us anyway. If we choose to be away from God, he will honor this choice, but he also knows we have a chance to reform and be redeemed. We were made for good. We are God's children through our baptism.

St. Paul knew that the Christians in Rome struggled with being a part of God's goodness. He was pretty clear that if they were to follow they would be a part of God's goodness. The Christians in Rome tried to live in God's will. The Romans had a purpose and that was to carry out the will of God. Paul rightly states that God knew what we were going to do before we do it, but their actions were still their choice. God predestined them, but he still called them. Through their response they were justified and justified they were glorified. This gave hope to all who believed.

Even though we are predestined in his love God allows us to feel our choices. We can choose Jesus who chose out of love to die for the Romans and for us. Most of us desire to be glorified, but we must respond to the call Jesus makes to us. This is the same call Paul heard so many years ago. Jesus continues to call us to follow him both individually, but more importantly as a community of believers. We have to be careful not to make it just me and Jesus, but know our decisions bring us into community with others. He loves us no matter what. He gives us a justification to live our lives to the fullest. God glorifies us with his love. He knows how we will choose and he gives us opportunities for grace.