

Th131 God's Plan

Lesson Th131-11 The Plan

In our last few lessons we learned that God is love. We also learned that love is not complete in itself, but rather love is made complete when it has someone to love. We discovered that love cannot be forced upon someone, but that love should be freely given, freely received, and freely returned. Finally, in our last lesson we learned that in order for love to be freely given, freely received, and freely returned, there must be a choice. The recipient of the love must have the freedom to choose whether to receive and return the love. Love should never be forced; there should always be choice.

Now to return to the Bible verse written by the apostle John which says, "God is love." Use your imaginations to go back before the universe was created. There are no stars, no sun, no moon or earth. There is nothing except God. Now let us try to imagine a God who is all powerful, all knowing, and everywhere at once. This God is perfect light. There is not a single shadow in Him. He is holy and perfect. And, He is love.

How will this God of love express His love? There is no one else except Him. But love seeks someone to love and thus God makes the decision to create beings in His image and likeness. These beings will be His children and He will love them and they will receive His love and love Him in return. But perfect love requires the ability to choose. Where God exists there is no other choice but Him. And, anything that was not of God would be evil and God would not allow evil to exist in His presence.

It would seem that God has a problem. His love wants to create children who will love Him in return. But He also wants them to be able to choose to love Him. Since where He is, there is no other choice but Him, He will have to create a place where the children can exist and where a choice other than God can exist as well.

And so the all knowing and all powerful God devised a plan that would meet the demands of His love. He would create an immense place where the children could be born. He would also have to create the potential for there to be a choice other than Him. God devised a magnificent plan. It would accomplish all of His desires. As He devised His plan He saw every event, every decision, and every result before the plan was set into motion. Those that existed in His creation would have the ability to choose and He foresaw every decision that they would make. There were parts of His plan that would cause great pain and loss. But, He also saw the end result. He foresaw the children who would choose to love Him. His love was willing to suffer loss and heartbreak for the sake of the children who would choose Him in perfect love.

In the New Testament the apostle Paul wrote a letter to the Christians living in Rome. In this letter he wrote: "For those God foreknew he also predestined to become conformed to the image of his Son, so that he would be the firstborn among many brothers and sisters" (Rom 8:29).

This lesson is **important** because it teaches about God's plan to have many children who would freely choose to love him.

The **main truth** of this lesson is that God's plan is for each person to experience the fullness of God's love.

To **review** this lesson, answer the following questions:

1. Before God created anything or anyone, what problem did God have in expressing love?

[Pause 5 seconds]

A. If you said, "God's problem was He had no one who could freely choose to love Him," you answered correctly.

2. How did God solve the problem of fully expressing His love? [Pause 5 seconds]

A. If you said God created human beings who could choose to love Him, you are right.

3. What phrase did John use to express the deepest essence of who God is? [Pause]

A. If you said that John used the phrase, "God is love" to express God's essence, you are correct.

Your **assignment** is to repeat this key verse, Romans 8:29 a few times so that we can memorize it. I will say part of the verse and then pause so that you can repeat it. We will do this a few times as your assignment is to memorize this verse and then find someone to teach this verse to and explain God's purpose for creation.

Now, repeat after me:

"For those God foreknew, *(Pause long enough for the phrase to be repeated.)*

He also predestined *to become* conformed to the image of His Son, (Pause)

so that He would be the firstborn among many brothers and sisters"(Pause)

Romans 8:29

Let's repeat this verse again:

"For those God foreknew, *(Pause long enough for the phrase to be repeated.)*

He also predestined *to become* conformed to the image of His Son, (Pause)

so that He would be the firstborn among many brothers and sisters"(Pause)

Romans 8:29.

Let's repeat this verse one last time.

"For those God foreknew, *(Pause long enough for the phrase to be repeated.)*

He also predestined *to become* conformed to the image of His Son, (Pause)

so that He would be the firstborn among many brothers and sisters"(Pause)

Romans 8:29.

Review this lesson as many times as is necessary to fully understand why God created the universe and so that you can quote the Bible verse correctly. Your assignment is to memorize this verse and then find someone to teach this verse to and explain God's purpose for creation.