

### *The Contextual View*

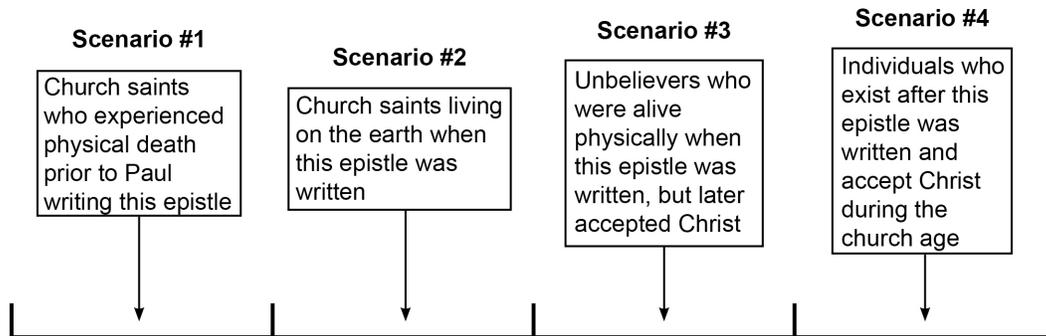
Let's reconsider our findings in regard to "called" (Romans 8:28) and "whom," "whom," "whom," and "whom" (Romans 8:29-30).

*And we know that God causes all things to work together for good to those who love God, to those who are called according to His purpose. For whom He foreknew, He also predestined to become conformed to the image of His Son, that He might be the first-born among many brethren; and whom He predestined, these He also called; and whom He called, these He also justified; and whom He justified, these He also glorified. (Romans 8:28-30)*

The specific context of these passages relates to believers living on the earth when this epistle was written (Scenario #2 in the diagram presented previously titled "Four Scenarios that Provide Context to Romans 8:28-30"). The significance of this discovery is impossible to overemphasize, for it holds the key to a proper view of this highly debated segment of God's infallible Word. New Testament believers are "called" (Romans 8:28) to office only so long as they live on the earth—"called" (Romans 8:28) being in the present tense, placing the specific context squarely upon believers inhabiting the earth when this God-inspired letter was generated. Thus, the "whom," "whom," "whom," and "whom" of Romans 8:29-30 must point to this same group of believers—saints living at that particular time who had been "predestined," "called," "justified," and "glorified" the moment they repented and believed while depraved. This view, therefore, allows the past tense (aorist tense) associated with "predestined," "called," "justified," and "glorified" to apply void of inconsistency—for the recipients of this epistle were already believers when this epistle was written.

Considering all of this wonderful truth, the specific context of "foreknew" of Romans 8:29 relates to this same group of saints. Don't misunderstand. God's foreknowledge is eternal and all-inclusive, for He foreknows all things without being required to cause all things. Yet Paul, in these passages, is emphasizing His foreknowledge of a particular group of believers—the New Testament believers on the earth when this epistle was written (remember that the "whom" of "for whom He foreknew" of Romans 8:29 also references this particular group of believers). These facts add incredible insight to our study, for they prove that only one of the four previously addressed scenarios applies. All four scenarios are again listed for convenience:

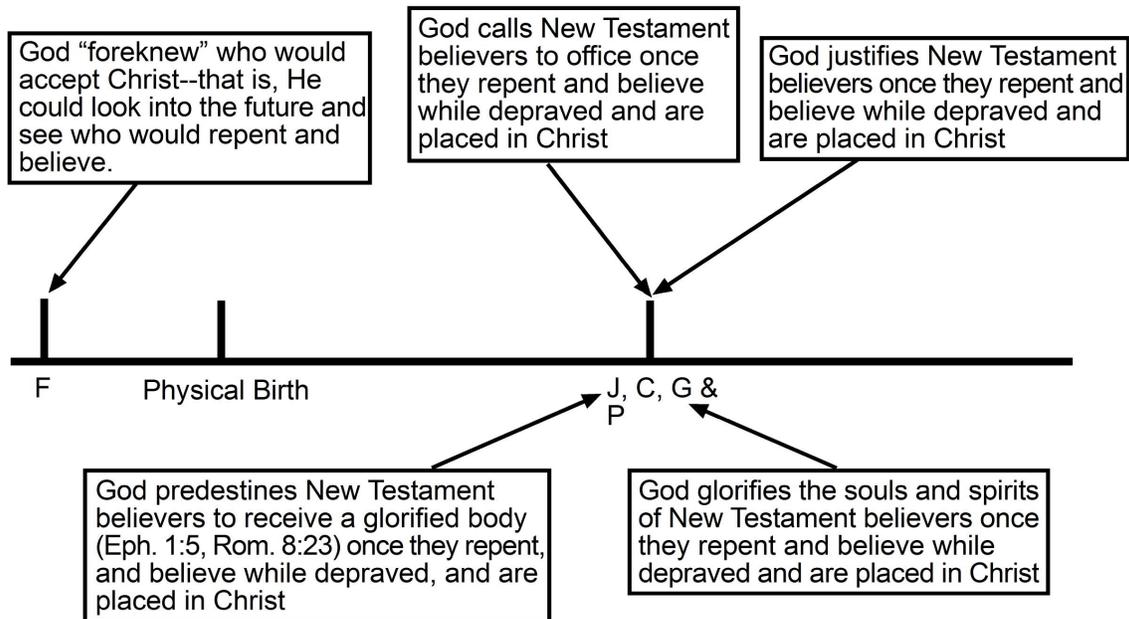
### Four Possible Groups to Whom Paul Was Referring in Romans 8:29-30



Paul was led to implement the particular tenses utilized in these passages because he was addressing Scenario #2—“Church saints living on the earth when this epistle was written.” The present tense “called” (Romans 8:28) proves that Scenario #1 does not apply, for these New Testament saints no longer serve in the office to which they were previously “called.” They were (and are) basking in the presence of God in heaven (2Corinthians 5:8). Neither does Scenario #3 fit the specific context, for these unbelievers would have been “predestined,” “called,” “justified,” and “glorified” prior to repenting and believing had Paul been referencing them. Should Scenario #4 fit the specific context, these individuals would be “predestined,” “called,” “justified,” and “glorified” when they arrive on the earth—a total impossibility. Thus, Paul narrows the specific context of “foreknew” (Romans 8:29) to believers dwelling on the earth when this epistle was written.

Based on these amazing facts, the P (“predestined”), C (“called”), J (“justified”), and G (“glorified”) of Romans 8:30 can be associated with a particular point on the timeline. New Testament believers are “predestined,” “called,” and “glorified” the instant they are “justified.” This truth is displayed in graphic form below:

## Romans 8:29-30 The Contextual View



This "Contextual View" of Romans 8:29-30 allows God's foreknowledge to have preceded that moment when the recipients of this epistle (and all other believers on the earth at that time) repented and believed while depraved. Once they repented and believed, they were "*predestined*" (to receive a glorified body), "*called*" (to office), "*justified*" (made not guilty, righteous), and "*glorified*" (in soul and spirit) through the Spirit placing them in Christ—allowing the past tense in each case to apply due to their having been made into all of these wonderful things prior to receiving this epistle. The exactness of the Scriptures is astounding!