

E. We Believe in the Plan of God

Basic Scripture: Romans 8:18-38

1. Introductory Note

Listing beliefs that are basic is not easy. Especially is this the case when we want to note those which we think are most significant. At times one will discover the greatest arguments about doctrines which, when viewed fully, appear to be very minor. At this point in our study we leave the more formal doctrinal statements and move to discuss things as they affect us in our world. In some ways these are more "practical" but in the long run, all of the truth of the word is both practical and needful.

Our thrust here is that God is not doing things blindly. He is sovereign, all wise, all mighty, all knowing. In his purposes we are often not intelligent, but what we see of them tells us that he has purpose and intent and will bring to pass what is in agreement with his aims. Our knowing this gives us increased confidence. We are sure that we shall never fall nor be abandoned because, to put it very simply, he has a plan and our belief in him allows us to accept and wait for the fulfillment of that plan. In this study we will sketch that plan in two stages although it will be apparent to all that there are many more aspects to it.

2. Discussion

a. God Purposes...the Deliverance of Creation.

The special Scriptures are noted in Romans 8:19-21. The thrust is that God intends to overcome all the forces of sin and evil and bring creation to the status that will fully honor and show his praise. The world waits for this...and with it waits for the moment when the children of God shall be shown in the glory that he has prepared for them.