

VANILLA ICE CREAM

Romans 8:30-31

Friday, February 23, 2018, 9th Day of Lent

30: "And those he predestined, he also called; those he called, he also justified; those he justified, he also glorified. 31: What, then, shall we say in response to this? If God is for us, who can be against us?"

These verses are located between two of the most famous verses of the New Testament.

Romans 8:28; "And we know that in all things God works for the good of those who love him, who have been called according to his purpose."

AND

Romans 8:32, "He who did not spare his own Son, but gave him up for us all - how will he not also, along with him, graciously give us all things?"

How often do we search out the remembered and familiar verses and then skip quickly over the less spectacular, un- underlined, not marked in yellow, middle verses.

Romans 8:31-32 falls into that middle slot for me.

One of my most vivid memories of my childhood was buying "Neapolitan" ice cream by the 1/2 gallon at our local corner store. We would put our "dibs" on the creamy chocolate at one end of the carton or the luscious strawberry at the other. The vanilla in the middle was never desired like the end flavors. Does this happen to us in our Bible reading?

As we pause to study these less notarized, but definitely just as important verses, we see how precious and important it is to be:

Called- by God

Justified-by Jesus his son

Glorified- by the Holy Spirit

How wonderful to be a child of the loving eternal Father, who is always "for" us, who sacrificed his own son for our eternal salvation and who will give us everything we need.

This encouraging and comforting middle passage could be our sole Christian mantra. It is just as important, just as rich, just as spirit filled, as the preceding or the following verses. Paul knew these middle verses were the "middle cement" that held the chocolate and strawberry together.

Prayer: Lord, thank you for giving us Your Living Word. It is a source of strength and knowledge. Open our ears that we might hear and respond to your direction for our lives. Amen.

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