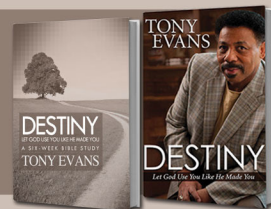


# DESTINY

## Sermon Outline



### MESSAGE THREE

**SUGGESTED PASSAGE:** Romans 8:28-30 (NASB)  
28 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. 29 For those whom He foreknew, He also predestined to become conformed to the image of His Son, so that He would be the firstborn among many brethren; 30 and these whom He predestined, He also called; and these whom He called, He also justified; and these whom He justified, He also glorified.

#### MESSAGE GOAL:

This sermon will help people understand that God uses our good, bad, and bitter experiences to point us to our destiny so He can fulfill His plan.

#### INTRODUCTION:

A hammer and a chisel in the hands of a sculptor can turn a piece of stone into a work of art. With each blow, as the hammer strikes the chisel, chunks of stone fall away, eventually revealing a beautiful sculpture. Though the process of chipping away at the stone seems harsh and unyielding, the result is well worth the pain.

Likewise, when God gets His hands on our joyful and painful experiences, He can turn our lives into masterpieces that display His glory and channel His blessings to others. God will use our skills, training, and interests to help us discover our purpose in life. He will also turn our failures and sin into opportunities to form us into the people He created us to be. And even when we face injustice, persecution, and unbearable tragedy, God will transform our pain into a passion for Him—if we let Him.

Some of the primary tools God uses to help us identify our divine-designed destinies are our experiences. God is able to thread together the good, the bad, and the bitter experiences that life has taken us through to shape a beautiful masterpiece of destiny and to accomplish His purpose in our lives.

#### SERMON POINTS:

##### 1. GOD USES ALL OF OUR EXPERIENCES TO BRING HIM GLORY

- God sovereignly works through all of our

experiences to glorify Himself and achieve what is best for His children. (Romans 8:28-30)

- Through good, bad, and bitter experiences God prepares us for our destiny.

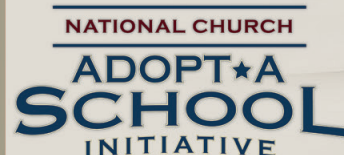
##### 2. GOD USES YOUR GOOD EXPERIENCES TO FULFILL HIS PLAN

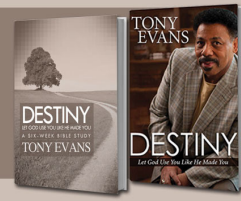
- Good experiences are the positive things that have happened as a result of God's will and your good choices.
  - God will use your good experiences, education, connections, family, etc., to craft you specially to fulfill our God-ordained destiny.
  - God took Saul's training as a Pharisee, sanctified it, and used it to prepare the converted "Paul" to craft the theological foundation of the church in the New Testament letters he wrote. (Acts 22:3)
  - God used Peter's trade as a fisherman to turn him into a fisher of men and a leader in the early church. (Matthew 4:18-20)
  - God used Moses's training in the royal Egyptian household to give him access to redeem God's people. (Exodus 3:10)
  - God used Esther's beauty to make her the queen so she could save His people. (Esther 4:14)

##### 3. GOD USES YOUR BAD EXPERIENCES TO ACHIEVE HIS WILL

- Bad experiences are the mistakes, sins, failures, consequences, and regrets that have occurred because of your own choices.
  - God can take your bad experiences and turn them into tools to bring Him glory.
  - Peter denied Jesus three times but God used that failure to humble Peter and prepare him for ministry and to strengthen other Christians. (Luke 22:31-34)
  - You must learn from your failures and the consequences of bad choices and be humbled so God can use them for His good.

our society's problem  
is not solely our *government's* problem.  
it is **the church's** problem.  
it is *our* problem.





#### 4. GOD USES YOUR BITTER EXPERIENCES TO ACCOMPLISH HIS DESIRES

- Bitter experiences are the things that have happened to you, but that are not your fault, such as abandonment, abuse, neglect, injustice, and disease.
  - Joseph was born into a dysfunctional family, sold by his brothers, wrongly accused by Potiphar's wife, sent to jail unjustly, and forgotten. In His timing, God elevated Joseph to a position of influence. Joseph didn't let bitterness take over. He saw God's hand working through evil people and injustice to put Joseph in a position to save his family and his people (Genesis 50:20).
  - God was always with Joseph, enabling him to withstand the trials. As Joseph recognized God's sovereignty, he trusted Him and didn't allow bitterness to take root in his heart. (Genesis 39:20-23).

#### SERMON ILLUSTRATIONS:

**1. GOD USES OUR BAD EXPERIENCES:** How did God bring Peter back after he denied Jesus? When Peter was out fishing on the Sea of Galilee, he saw Jesus on the shore cooking fish over a charcoal fire. The Greek word for charcoal is only used two times in the New Testament—once when Peter was warming his hands over a charcoal fire when he denied Jesus, and the other time when Jesus cooked Peter's breakfast over the charcoal fire. God took Peter back to the place of his failure—to the charcoal fire where he denied his Lord—humbled him, and then told him to feed His sheep. Finally, Peter was ready to help others.

#### QUOTES ATTRIBUTED TO DR. TONY EVANS:

"Some of the primary things that God uses to help us identify His divine, designed destiny are our experiences."

"God has the ability to take our mess and construct our miracles."

"One of the reasons many have not reached their destiny that they have not learned from their failures."

"God has a way of taking our bad and making us better."

"If you have failed, don't make it a waste. Make it something God can use to take you to a destiny that benefits others."

