



## THE 7<sup>TH</sup> YEAR STRETCH Romans 8:29

Sermon Notes  
Pastor Vincent B. Ligon  
Church - 216.381-7053

Sunday, November 11, 2007  
[www.emmausbfc.com](http://www.emmausbfc.com)  
E-Mail [info@emmausbfc.com](mailto:info@emmausbfc.com)

**YOU ARE BEING FASHIONED!!**

### INTRODUCTION

#### A. Seventh-Inning Stretch by Michael Aubrecht

It is perhaps the most mundane, yet physically rewarding moment of every baseball game. A few precious minutes in which the hours of excruciating stress and anticipation is momentarily lifted for a well-deserved break. It is a time to stand, to dance, to sing and to take care of "nature's calling." It is the Seventh-Inning Stretch and it has become as important a tradition in America's Pastime as the National Anthem and the first pitch.

The first (and more popular) retort that has been presented by countless baseball historians gives sole credit to the **27<sup>th</sup> President of the United States, William Howard Taft. One of America's less memorable leaders, Taft was an obese man, tipping the scales at over 300 pounds, and probably spent more fervor on following his favorite game of baseball than he did on running the country.** Also credited with being the first U.S. President to throw out the first pitch, Taft attended the Opening Day game against the Washington Senators and Philadelphia Athletics on April 14, 1910 at Griffith Stadium.

According to reports, as the game continued to drag on, the six-foot-two president grew increasingly uncomfortable in the small wooden chair that was no doubt weaning under the weight of its presidential patron. **By the middle of the seventh-inning, Taft was unable to bear the pain any longer and stood up to stretch his aching legs. In those days, the leader of the free world commanded a tremendous amount of reverence and as his fellow spectators noticed him rising, they followed his lead as a sign of respect. A few minutes later, Taft returned to his seat and the game resumed. Thus the Seventh-Inning Stretch was born!**

#### B. Word Defined –

##### 1) Stretch

**to extend** (as one's limbs or body) in a reclining position ,to reach out : **EXTEND** ,to extend in length , to be pulled especially in torture, to enlarge **to extend or expand as if by physical force stretch one's minds**

##### 2) Conformed, Conformable:

"**to fashion or shape(stretched)** one thing like another," is translated "conformed" in **Romans 12:2**, "fashioned;" "fashioning" in **1Peter 1:14**. This verb has more especial reference **to that which is fleeting, changeable, unstable; to that which is essential in character and thus complete or durable, not merely a form or outline.**

### I. Our Text – Romans 8:29

#### A. **The Foundation** - *For whom he did foreknow,*

To *foreknow*, here signifies **to design before**, or at the first forming of the scheme; to bestow the *favour* and *privilege* of being God's people upon any set of men, **Romans 11:2**. This is the *foundation* or first step of **our salvation**; namely, **the purpose and grace of God**, which was given us in Christ Jesus, before the world began, **2 Timothy 1:9**. **Then, he knew or favoured us**; for in this sense the word *to know* is taken in a great variety of places, both in the Old and New Testaments.

And as he *knew* the GENTILES *then*, when the scheme was laid, and before any part of it was executed, consequently, in reference to the execution of this scheme, he *foreknew* us.

This is the **first step of our salvation**, and the *end* or *finishing* of it is our *conformity to the Son of God in eternal glory*, **Romans 8:17**, which includes and supposes our **moral conformity** to him. When God *knew* us, at the forming of the Gospel scheme; or, when he intended to bestow on us the privilege of being his people; **he then designed us to be conformed to the image of his Son; and, as he determined us then to this very high honour and happiness, he pre-destinated, fore-ordained, or pre-determined us to it.** Thus we are to understand the foundation and finishing of the scheme of our salvation.

### SHOUT – STRETCH ME LORD

**B. The Finishing** - The *foundation* is the *foreknowledge*, or *gracious purpose* of God; the **finishing** is our being **joint heirs with Christ**. Now, our *calling* or *invitation* (**See Romans 8:28**.) stands in connection with both these.

1. It stands in connection with God's *foreknowledge*; and so it is a true and valid calling: for we are *called, invited, or chosen according to the foreknowledge of God the Father, who may bestow his blessings upon any people*, as may seem good in his sight, **1 Peter 1:2**; consequently, we have a good title to the blessings of the Gospel to which we are *called* or *invited*. And this was to be proved, **that the Jew, to whom the apostle particularly wrote, might see that the Gentiles being now called into the Church of God was not an accidental thing**, but a matter which God had determined when he conceived the Gospel scheme. **Thus our calling is connected with God's foreknowledge.**

### SHOUT – STRETCH ME LORD

2. It stands also in connection with our being **conformed to the image of his Son**; for we are **invited by the Gospel to the obtaining of the glory of our Lord Jesus Christ**, **2 Thessalonians 2:14**. And therefore, supposing, what the apostle supposes, that **we love God**, it is certain, from our being *called*, that we shall be **glorified with the sons of God**; and so our calling proves the point, that all things should work together for our good in our present state, because it proves that we are intended for eternal glory; as he shows in the next verse.

**For we must understand his foreknowing, predestinating, calling, and justifying, in relation to his glorifying; and that none are finally glorified, but those who, according to his purpose, are conformed to the image of his Son."** Taylor.

### SHOUT – STRETCH ME LORD

**CLOSING** - The Point of Romans 8:29

- (1) Romans 8:29 was written to help explain how Romans 8:28 can be true.
- (2) In our text, it is God and not man who is active and predominant.
- (3) The sovereignty of God enables Him to establish a plan in eternity past and to carry out that plan perfectly in time.
- (4) God's foreknowledge seems to be directed toward those people whom He has chosen; His predestination is directed toward the plan or the program He has foreordained for His people.
- (5) In Romans 8:28-29, God's foreknowledge and His predestination are intertwined.
- (6) Verse 29 indicates God's immediate purpose for us.

#### Jeremiah 29:11

For I know the plans I have for you," declares the LORD, "plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future.