

God's Sovereign Choice

Romans 9:1-18

Introduction

I Paul's Description of Israel's Advantages

- A. He highlights his great concern for Israel
 - 1. He had great **sorrow** for the Jews
 - 2. He had unceasing **anguish** for the Jews
 - 3. He had a sacrificial heart for the Jews - Jn 15:13-14
 - a. He wished himself **accursed** for their sakes
 - b. He wished himself **cut off** for their sakes - Ex 32:32
- B. He highlights God's great blessing of Israel - Dt 7:6-7; 9:4-6
 - 1. Theirs is the **adoption** - Ex 4:22-23; Hos 1:10
 - 2. Theirs is the **divine glory** - Ex 13:21; 24:15-18; 40:34-35
 - 3. Theirs is the **covenants** - Eph 2:12; Jer 31:31-34
 - 4. Theirs is the **Law** - Ex 20:1-20; Rom 3:1-2
 - 5. Theirs is the **temple worship** - Leviticus
 - 6. Theirs are the **promises** - Rom 4:13-21; Acts 13:32
 - 7. Theirs are the **patriarchs** - Gen 50:24
 - 8. Theirs is the **human** ancestry of Christ - Rom 1:3-4

II Paul's Assessment of Israel's Problem

- A. God's **Word** did not fail to bring salvation - Num 23:19
- B. The people of **Israel** failed to receive salvation
 - 1. Not all from Israel are Israel - Rom 2:28-29
 - 2. Not all from Abraham are of Abraham - Gal 3:6-7, 29

III Paul's Illustrations of God's Sovereign Choice

- A. God's sovereignty displayed in **Isaac** - Gen 16:1-18:15
 - 1. God delivered at the appointed time
 - 2. God delivered the appointed son
- B. God's sovereignty displayed in **Jacob** - Gen 25:19-23
 - 1. Two boys from the same father
 - 2. Before the twins had done good or bad
 - a. That God's purpose in election might stand
 - 3. Took place in spite of cultural traditions
 - a. The older served the younger

- 4. He loved Jacob but hated Esau - Mal 1:2-3
- C. God's sovereignty displayed in **Pharaoh**
 - 1. He has mercy on whom He wishes - Titus 3:5
 - a. It does not depend on:
 - 1. Man's **desire**
 - 2. Man's **effort** - Eph 2:8-9
 - b. It depends on God's **mercy**
 - 2. Pharaoh was raised up by God:
 - a. To display His **power** - Ex 9:16
 - b. To proclaim His **name** - Ex 15:14-15; Josh 2:9-11
 - 3. The lesson:
 - a. God has **mercy** on whom He desires
 - b. God **hardens** whom He desires - Rom 1:24-28

PERSONAL APPLICATION

Take some time to consider the following questions:

- 1. How do you generally respond to controversial issues related to the Bible? What are the pros/cons of your approach?
- 2. Paul describes himself as having great sorrow and unceasing anguish over the unbelief of the Jews and was even willing to forfeit his place in heaven if it meant salvation for others. Describe your present concern for the lost? How can it grow?
- 3. How should each of the eight benefits Paul mentioned in Romans 9:4-5 have drawn the Jewish people to Jesus Christ? What benefits has God given you? Have they drawn you nearer to Christ or have they tempted you away from Him?
- 4. Suppose for a moment that salvation depended on human desire and effort. What grade would you give yourself? What grade would God give you? What should you depend on instead? [Hint: Read Titus 3:5; Eph 2:8-9]
- 5. How do the examples of Isaac, Jacob and Pharaoh highlight the sovereign choice of God? How has this study impacted your view of God? Your view of man? Your view of yourself?

BOB HALLMAN - THE EPIC LIFE

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