

***Sovereign Election: God's Prerogative***  
***Romans 9:1-29***

---

**Getting Started**

- ❖ This week we will do a more inductive study into the first 29 verses. So far what has encouraged you and challenged you the most with Romans 9?
- ❖ What does the idea of God's "election" mean to you? How do you feel when you think about it?

**Digging Deeper**

- ❖ **Read Romans 9:1-5.** How does Paul feel about the fact that most of his fellow Jews have rejected Jesus as their King and Savior?
  - What is a covenant? (vs.4)
  - What and who is a "Patriarch"? (vs.5)
  - How does this section dealing with the Jews and their salvation relate to the last half of chapter 8? Why would this topic even come up?
- ❖ **Read Romans 9:6-18.** Paul says that God's word--- his promise to save and bless Abraham's descendants--- has not failed, even though most members of the nation of Israel have rejected Jesus as Lord (vs.6).
  - **Why Not? (vs. 6,8)**
  - **Read Gen. 16:1-4a, 15-16; 17:15-22.** How do we see the truth of Rom.9:6 in what happened to Abraham's children, Ishmael and Isaac?
  - What did God tell Rebekah about her twins? (vs.12)
  - What reasons for God blessing Jacob and Esau does Paul rule out? (vs.11-12)
  - Is any positive reason given for God's election of Jacob? What is it?
  - A shift takes place answering the question, "Is God unjust?" (vs.14) because He chooses some and not others. Paul moves to the Exodus. On whom does God have mercy? (vs.15)
  - What does salvation therefore not depend on? (vs.16) Can you think of other Scriptures that support your answer?
  - What is mercy? Why is it irrational to say God owes His mercy to everyone and if He doesn't give it to everyone He's not being "fair"?
  - Since God doesn't owe salvation to anyone, he is free to give it to all, to some or to none. How does this help us to think through whether God is being unjust to some and not others?
  - Moses was someone God chose to give his mercy to. Pharaoh was someone he chose to harden; he did not receive mercy. To understand what is going on here, let's head back to the Exodus account. **Read Ex. 4:21; 7:3; 10:1.** Who hardened Pharaoh's heart? **Read Ex. 8:15, 19; 9:7, 17, 27.** Who hardened Pharaoh's heart?

All these statements are true! Paul has already spoken about this in Rom. 1:24. People's hearts rejected God, and "therefore God gave them over" to their decision to reject him. God's hardening of Pharaoh's heart was "giving him up" to his stubbornness. God gave Pharaoh what he chose--- a hard heart. The teaching is: God hardens those he wants to harden. And all those whom he hardens want to be hardened! Think on that for a bit...

(Over)

**Sovereign Election: God's Prerogative**  
**Romans 9:1-29**

---

❖ Read Romans 9:19-29

- What are we reminded of in verses 19-21 about God? About ourselves?
- Define “wrath” in verse 22, “Gentiles” in verse 24, “Remnant” in verse 27 and “Sodom and Gomorrah” in verse 29.
- **Read Is. 29:16; 45:9.** How do these verses apply to verses 20-21 in Romans 9? What point is Paul making by using the potter/clay analogy? How should this shape our understanding of who we are? How could this analogy be abused in light of other Scriptures that speak to who we are as humans, and especially, Christians?
- Sincere questions about who God is and what His will is are perfectly acceptable, but accusations and judgements about God are not. What is the difference between the two? How can we know we are on “safe ground” or “crossing a line”?
- In the sermon, Jerry gave an illustration of a mountain topped with a cloud. What was the point of that illustration? What are some things you wonder about which may “be in the cloud”?
- What is the point of verses 22-24? How does it speak to our questions of why God chooses some but not others? How would you answer someone who asks that question?
- How do verses 25-29 help us to worship God; encourage humility within us; make us hopeful for unbelievers; give us confidence in our eternal life?

❖ **Applying this passage to Our Lives:**

- How does this passage affect and inform your conception of God and yourself?
- How can this passage make us bolder Ambassadors for Christ?
- Are you tempted to use this passage as justification for some version of fatalism or negative determinism? What aspects of this passage should actually encourage us to see that fatalistic determinism is unjustified?

**Think About It!**

*God is too good to be unkind and He is too wise to be mistaken. And when we cannot trace His hand, we must trust His heart.* (Charles Spurgeon)

**Praying Together**

Spend time in prayer for one another's most pressing needs. Let's remember those being most affect by Covid-19

(Note: In this year's study of Romans, our study questions are being inspired by or derived from books, commentaries and bible studies authored by: Pastors Matt Smith, Max Lucado, John MacArthur, R.C. Sproul, Jack Hayford and Tim Keller.)