

## God's Sovereignty in Salvation, Part 1 Romans 9

Paul has been anticipating questions and objections throughout the entire letter and now Paul is hearing this objection in his mind: Wait a minute Paul, you said when God calls someone, He always brings them all the way home. What about the Jews? They are God's chosen people and yet most of them seem to stand in rejection of Jesus Christ. So, which of these are failing...

God's power, God's promise, or God's mercy?

Most people skip over Romans 9. Taking the time to comprehend Romans 9 can do at least two things:

**1) Build your confidence in Romans 8.** Romans 9 builds your confidence in the God who is sovereign and can accomplish what He pleases. You will especially be benefited by this during hard times.

**2) Your worship of God will deepen.** Romans 9 helps to dismantle the perception of God as a great big blessing machine whom you can treat like a Genie. The God who is revealed in the Bible inspires awe and reverence because He is holy, sovereign, majestic and even mysterious.

What we are going to see in Romans 9 is that election refers to God's freedom to choose with regard to the issue of salvation. God is not obligated in any way to give salvation to people based on what they do. God elects individuals to salvation without regard to a person's will, effort, ability or even desire.

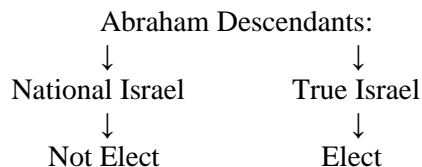
Did you know that predestination often shows up in the life of Jesus?

*Herod and Pontius Pilate met together with the Gentiles and the people of Israel in this city to conspire against your holy servant Jesus, whom you anointed. They did what your power and will had decided beforehand should happen. Acts 4:28*

Romans 9:1-3 puts Paul's passion for the lost on clear display.

One thing this paragraph means is that Jews who don't come to Christ are not saved simply because they are Jewish. The Jews need to hear and respond to God's offer of salvation through Jesus; otherwise, they will miss out. This leads to the question ... can God's promises be nullified somehow?

Romans 9:6-12



Election is not based upon anything that people do, or want to do, or intend to do, or hope to do, or could have done if they had the chance. Election depends completely on God's mercy. That God should set His love upon any individual is not based upon anything that person has done, is doing, or will do. Election depends completely on God's mercy.

Romans 11:33 (HCSB)

*Oh, the depth of the riches both of the wisdom and the knowledge of God! How unsearchable His judgments and untraceable His ways!*

### **Home Group Discussion Questions:**

1. Read Romans 8:31-39 as a recap of what Paul has been teaching thus far in the letter to Rome. This is what Paul was willing to give up to see Jews come to know Christ. This covenant is also what made it impossible for Paul to actually make that trade.
2. Read Romans 9:1-16.  
What stands out to you most as you read this? What does this passage say about God? What does this passage say about people?
3. What is the good news piece of this passage? What is the most challenging piece of this passage?
4. How has God proven that He is true to His Word in your life (Romans 9:6)? How has He fulfilled various promises?
5. Do you ever notice that you've been guilty of trying to earn God's faithfulness? How can you rely upon Christ's performance instead of your own?

Note: There will be a part two of Romans 9 next Sunday.