



# **ROMANS**

The Gospel of God

## **The Gospel of Election!**

**Romans 9:1-33**

Message #19 of 33 – S1146

**Sermon given on April 13, 2025**



Sunday Morning Service

**Pastor Rick Lancaster**

# The Gospel of Election!

## *Romans 9:1-33*

### Opening Comments

- Open your Bibles to **Romans 9**
- Today, we continue the series through the letter to the Romans – **The Gospel of God!**
- Let's open this time in our service with a word of prayer. - **Pray**

### Teaching

- **The Gospel of Election!**
- Chapter eight ended with the glorious declaration of God's unfailing and infinite love.
- **Romans 8:38-39**
- The change of tone from chapter eight to chapter nine is dramatic.
- Paul's attention shifts from Christ-followers to the Jewish people.
- Paul was a Jew. Jews are the Chosen people of God and were called by God to worship Him and Him alone.
- When Christ came, He established a new covenant with humanity, including the Jews.
- The old way of trying to be right with God through the Law of Moses had been superseded by the law of grace through faith in the finished work of Christ on the cross.
- The Jewish religious establishment rejected Christ as the Messiah.
- This morning, we are going to look at doctrine that has been the source of great discussion and disagreement – Election.

### **Election: God chose us to be saved before the foundation of the world.**

- Election is not based on merit or what we will or won't do for God.
- The basis for God's electing us is found in Him and Him alone.
- Paul starts this chapter reflecting on the real consequences of the Jews' rejection of Jesus as their Messiah.
- **Romans 9:1-5**
- Paul was so troubled by the thought of the consequence of his people's rejection of Christ he was willing to forego heaven if there was a way to save his fellow Jews.

- Paul knew that was impossible, but that was how strong his emotions were.
- If you have a loved one who is not saved, then you may have a sense of how Paul is feeling.
- Your heart aches for them to come to Christ.
- Paul was proud of his Jewish heritage.
- His pain was magnified as he reflected on the great promises and privileges his people had benefited from.
- The argument that might be brought by the Jews, is that based on all the privileges, it is inconceivable that they aren't saved.
- We were created in the image of God.
- In many ways we reflect some of the characteristics of God – though tainted by the sin nature.
- One characteristic is our ability to choose.
- God made it so that we could choose Him or reject Him.
- If God has elected you, you will be saved. **Acts 13:48**

**Now when the Gentiles heard this, they were glad and glorified the word of the Lord. And as many as had been appointed to eternal life believed.**

- This all becomes complicated when we remind ourselves that we are saved by faith. **Ephesians 2:8-9**

**<sup>8</sup>For by grace you have been saved through faith, and that not of yourselves; it is the gift of God, <sup>9</sup>not of works, lest anyone should boast.**

- For two thousand years people have debated which is true – God's sovereign election – He chose us or freewill of man – we chose God.
- They can't both be true, but the Bible says they are.
- Of all doctrine in the Bible, this may be the most difficult to grasp.
- In fact, many suggest that that we are not capable of fully understanding it.
- It reminds us of just how far we are from understanding God. **Isaiah 55:8-9**

**<sup>8</sup>“For My thoughts are not your thoughts, nor are your ways My ways,” says the LORD. <sup>9</sup>“for as the heavens are higher than the earth, so are My ways higher than your ways, and My thoughts than your thoughts.”**

- One commentator said that if you understood this doctrine fully the Trinity would have to make room for another member.

- Paul then deals with their false idea that they are elected based on their Jewish heritage.
- **Romans 9:6-7**
- They have the wrong idea that they are genetically among the elect.
- Paul says being Jewish doesn't save you.
- There are some people who believe they are Christians because their parents were Christians.
- Heritage does not determine election, God does.
- **Romans 9:8-13**
- God chose Jacob and He did not choose Esau.
- The sense of the word 'hated' is that God loved Esau less than Jacob.
- Jesus used this same concept in Luke's gospel. **Luke 14:26**  
**If anyone comes to Me and does not hate his father and mother, wife and children, brothers and sisters, yes, and his own life also, he cannot be My disciple.**
- This is not a call to literally hate your parents.
- To follow Jesus, you must love your parents less than Jesus.
- He must be preeminent.
- God loves sinners – all of them. **John 3:16**  
**For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life.**
- And 2 Peter 3:9 says that He is patiently waiting for them to repent.
- But because He has given everyone freewill, they must choose to repent – He won't make them.
- The point Paul is making is that God has not failed, nor has He broken His promises just because the Jews have failed.
- True Israel are those who believe.
- Paul then deals with another objection.
- **Romans 9:14-18**
- The accusation is that God is unfair.
- If God elects some and not others it is because God is being unfair or unjust or unrighteous.
- If God can be unfair or unjust or unrighteous then He is not a God who be trusted. **R. Kent Hughes**

**“God is perfect. Perfect in knowledge, wisdom, power, presence, faithfulness, goodness, justice, mercy, grace, love, and holiness. Therefore, He is perfect in His choices.”**

- The fact that we do not understand His choices does not make them less perfect.
- ‘mercy...compassion...’ – This is a quote from Exodus 33:19 after the Israelites made the golden calf at Mount Sinai.
- God is sovereign, and His mercy and grace are not subject to any cause outside of His grace.
- God had mercy on the Israelites – He didn’t destroy them for their idolatry.
- God gave Pharaoh several opportunities to repent but Pharaoh refused and hardened his own heart toward God.
- Because of the hardness of Pharaoh’s heart God hardened his heart further to use him to God’s power to the world.
- Two people can be exposed to the grace of God, one will soften their heart toward God and the other will harden their heart toward Him.
- It is said, “The same sun that melts the ice hardens the clay.”
- God is perfectly just and everything He does is perfectly right, even when we don’t understand or agree.
- Paul then deals with another objection.
- **Romans 9:19-20a**
- Paul responds to what many think about God hardening Pharaoh’s heart.
- If God hardened Pharaoh’s heart, how can He accuse Pharaoh of evil?
- That doesn’t seem fair.
- Paul’s response is, ‘Who are you to talk back to or question God?’
- What do you think you know that God doesn’t know?
- What makes you think you know what is right or just that God doesn’t know?
- We are so far from God’s perfection, knowledge, wisdom, and justice that there is no human system of measurement to describe how far we are from Him.

- Anytime you think about questioning God, read Job chapters 38 to 42 as God answered Job's questioning of God after tragedy was allowed in Job's life.
- At the end Job said... **Job 42:5-6**
- <sup>5</sup> "I have heard of You by the hearing of the ear, but now my eye sees You. <sup>6</sup> Therefore I abhor *myself*, and repent in dust and ashes."
- Don't challenge or criticize what God is doing until you are equal with God, which will be never.
- **Romans 9:20b-21**
- God is sovereign Creator of everything.
- He made everything and forever retains the sovereign right to do what He wishes within the cones of His character whatever He chooses to do.
- Paul then poses a hypothetical question.
- **Romans 9:22-24**
- We might wonder why God withholds judgment on the wicked and evil people in the world.
- Paul suggests that it is so He might show His glory to His beloved children more clearly.
- Paul tells us that Israel's failure to live up to their high calling and the subsequent calling of the Gentiles was foretold in the Scriptures.
- **Romans 9:25-29**
- Paul quotes from Hosea and Isaiah to let his readers and us know that everything that has happened is in God plan for the redemption of the world.
- God's Word has not failed just because the Jews failed to keep their end of the covenant with God.
- Paul finishes this chapter by giving what we should conclude from this chapter.
- **Romans 9:30-33**
- Paul has been describing divine choice but now shifts to personal responsibility.
- God chooses us, but we are also responsible to choosing Him.
- Those seem like contradictory truths but only if you view them with human logic.

- It is beyond our understanding. It then becomes a matter of faith.
- God has established the universe to operate according to His will and rules.
- The created things have no authority to tell the Creator how things are to be done.
- That includes how they will relate to God.
- We don't get to tell God how He will save us or who He will save.
- He is the Potter; we are the clay.
- Jesus is the stumbling stone in verses 32 and 33.
- The Jews were working to reach God through the Law.
- The Law leads them to Christ.
- By rejecting Christ, they stumble and cannot reach God. **John 14:6** Jesus said to him, "I am the way, the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through Me."
- This is true for everyone. You either put your trust in Christ and rest in Him or you stumble over Him and cannot reach God or heaven.
- If you are a Christ-follower here today, you are one of the people God chose before the foundation of the world.
- Rejoice!
- **Pray**
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- We will be partaking in Communion this morning.
- It is wise for us to examine ourselves before we partake.
- The ushers will come forward now and hand out the elements.
- Please hold on to them and we will partake together.
- While they are handing out the elements, take a moment and thank God for choosing you.
- And then ask Him to show you how to live in a way that the world can see that God chose you.
- Troy will be leading us in Communion this morning.
- **Communion! Last Song!**