

“Not Your Ancestry nor Your Efforts, But God’s Merciful Choice”

Romans 9:6-16

January 9, 2021

I. God does not owe anyone salvation. (Rom. 9:14-16)

- A. All fallen humans are, by nature, corrupt and hostile to God (Rom. 1-3).
- B. God would be perfectly just to not save anyone.
- C. When God decides to save anyone, it’s based on His own sovereign mercy.

II. God’s promises had not failed Israel. (Romans 9:6-13)

- A. God had never promised to save every Jewish person.
- B. From even Abraham’s time, there was a distinction between the children of the promise and those who were not.
 - 1. Both Isaac and Ishmael were born to Abraham, yet only Isaac was a child of the promise, that is, a true child of God.
 - 2. When Paul refers to “the promise” made to Abraham, he’s referring to the fullness of salvation.

Galatians 3:29 - If you belong to Christ, then you are Abraham’s seed, and heirs according to the promise.

- C. It is God who decides who is a child of the promise.
 - 1. God chose Jacob rather than Esau (both born to Isaac).
 - 2. This choice was not based on anything but God’s own purposes.
- D. The same dynamics were still operable in Paul’s day.
 - 1. The Jews who were coming to Christ were those whom God had chosen to be children of the promise.
 - 2. Those who had not been chosen rejected Christ, consistent with their own fallen nature.

- E. The Lord Jesus had taught this same truth with different words:

John 6:39–40 - ³⁹ “This is the will of Him who sent Me, that of all that He has given Me I lose nothing, but raise it up on the last day. ⁴⁰ “For this is the will of My Father, that everyone who beholds the Son and believes in Him will have eternal life, and I Myself will raise him up on the last day.”

John 6:44 - ⁴⁴ “No one can come to Me unless the Father who sent Me draws him; and I will raise him up on the last day.”

John 6:65 - And He was saying, “For this reason I have said to you, that no one can come to Me unless it has been granted him from the Father.”

- F. The above was also true for the Gentiles who were coming to Jesus.

G. The same things continue to occur in our day.

1. God has chosen some corrupt and hostile sinners to *mercifully* draw to Christ for salvation.
2. God has decided to allow others to remain in their already corrupt and hostile state.

Romans 9:16 - *So then it does not depend on the man who wills or the man who runs, but on God who has mercy.*

H. Believers should be profoundly humbled and overjoyed that God has mercifully called them to faith according to His sovereign mercy.