

Glen Park Gospel Church
Tuesday Evening Bible Study Group Notes

Rev Chris Trinham

Studies in Romans Series 5

No 22

God's Choosing.

Scripture Reading: Romans 9:6-33

The principal objective of the next three studies is to understand Paul's teaching about believing and unbelieving Jews and believing and unbelieving Gentiles as taught in Romans 9, 10 and 11. There are three main themes, one in each chapter: Israel's Election, Rejection and Conversion. Why were the Jews elected and rejected? Why did He then turn the Gentiles?

To help you understand this portion, please underline in your Bible these four sentences. v6: "For they are not Israel who are descended from Israel;" v14: "There is no injustice with God, is there?" v19: "Why does He still find fault? For who resists his will?" v30: "What shall we say then?" These four sentences form the structure. The rest is Paul's expansion on them, and the Scripture he quotes is to support his teaching. Read these notes as you read the chapter.

God's Promise Was to Children of Faith

v6-8. "They are not all Israel who are descended from Israel." Being Jewish does not make one a child of God, because God's children are those whom He has begotten through promise. This was as true of them as it is true for us.

Abraham believed God and it was accounted to him for righteousness.

The principle was also true of his descendants. Read the stories in Genesis 25:19-26:35.

Sarah conceived a son through the faith of Abraham, and Isaac copied his father in his faith, his life style and his career. Rebekah had two children through Isaac's faith in God Genesis 25:21.

Jacob in his heart followed the ways of his father, but Esau did not. God chose the man of faith, but not the man of flesh. Romans 9:8

Even today, some children do and some do not. Compare 1 Kings 22:43 with 1 Kings 11:33. Here is a deep lesson for Christian parents. Make the matter of your children's salvation a matter of prayer, of teaching, of example but of

all things a matter of faith based in your own daily walk with the living God. God in His omniscience can talk to you about it, just as He did Rebekah Genesis 25:22&23.

Is God Unjust by Choosing? v14.

"What shall we say then?" Is God unjust in selecting only men and women of faith?

Moses is an example of a vessel demonstrating God's Mercy.

Pharaoh demonstrates God's authority.

Only after the admonition and miracles of Moses, the discipline of the plagues, and Pharaoh progressively hardening his heart against God and His servant Moses did God so dramatically redeem His people by overriding Pharaoh's power.

There comes to the one mercy, and to the other severity. Through them God has demonstrated to the world that He has the power, or right, to exercise both mercy and severity as He chooses.

The lesson for us is in this verse:

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

Our salvation does not depend on our

works, our religion, our lifestyle, our morality or our anything-else but on God's mercy. It is always:

'by grace you have been saved through faith; and that not of yourselves, it is the gift of God' Ephesians 2:8.

And praise God, grace is still freely available to those who believe. He has given His word, and it is His word that we believe.

Why then Does God Find Fault? v19.

Why does God still call unbelieving men and women to account? Does not mercy come only from Him and are we not wholly dependant on His grace?

Paul's illustration of God's right of choice is the story of the potter. The potter has the right to make of the same clay a fine dinner set, or a chamber pot. Both vessels have their uses. The clay does not dictate to the potter what sort of vessel it wants to be Romans 9:20.

The Potter has power over his work. God exhibits the same power. However God's *purpose* is not to demonstrate power (which He does), but to show how rich is His glory on the vessels of His mercy.

Note that verse 22 in all English versions is a question. The 'what' is not in the Greek- read it as, 'If God were willing to demonstrate His wrath . . .', He does so only after due forbearance. God has always since time began, made known to men the basis of Salvation, that is faith in Him. It is only after 'enduring with much patience' Romans 9:22 that his destruction falls, for God is:

patient toward you, not wishing for any to perish but for all to come to repentance 2 Peter 3:9.

Can I not, O house of Israel, deal with you as this potter *does*?" declares the LORD. "Behold, like the clay in the potter's hand, so are you in My hand, O house of Israel. At one moment I might speak concerning a nation or concerning a kingdom to uproot, to pull down, or to destroy *it*; if that nation against which I have spoken turns from its evil, I will relent concerning the calamity I planned to bring on it. Or at another moment I might speak concerning a nation or concerning a kingdom to build up or to plant *it*; if it does evil in My sight by not obeying My voice, then I will think better of the good with which I had promised to bless it. Jeremiah 18:6-10. See also Jonah 4:2.

What Conclusions Can We Draw? Or,

"What shall we say then?" v30

Israel failed because they tried.

Gentiles succeeded because they trusted. Why is this the case?

Israel, the nation, considered the law that had been given to them to show them the need of forgiveness through redemption by faith, took it to be a do-it-yourself manual whereby they might produce a righteousness of their own to satisfy God's expectation v31. Also see Ezekiel 33:12&13.

Because they were pursuing this course instead of looking for a Redeemer, they failed to recognise Jesus when He came and they slew Him, whereby He became the typified sacrificial lamb. Any Gentile who trusted in the crucified Christ found by faith what the Jews had been seeking by works.

Pleasing God therefore, is not a matter of works, but faith, not a matter of trying, but trusting.

Bible quotations in this study are from the NASB, unless otherwise acknowledged

Welcome

Glen Park Gospel Church

Lower Road, Eltham North

Sundays 10.30 am

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