

God's Choice

4-11-21

Romans 9:13 (NIV)

Jacob, I loved, but Esau I hated.

Romans Chapters 9, 10, and 11 are full of fascinating insights. We will see the sovereign Hand of God in our salvation. However, we need to understand the situation at the time the book of Romans was written to grasp the full importance of the chapters. When Romans was written there were more Jews than Christians. Plus, a large number of the Christians came from the Jewish faith. Therefore, a monumental question existed, “How could Jews be excluded from Salvation and the Gentiles be included in Salvation.” Thus, Romans Chapters 9, 10, and 11 was written:

Romans 9:13 (NIV)

Jacob, I loved, but Esau I hated.

For the explanation of why so many Jews could be excluded, God goes to Abraham, the first Jew. Then God goes to Isaac the second Jew. Then God goes to Jacob the third Jew. However, Esau, Jacob’s twin brother was not chosen or included in the Jewish race.

Why was Esau not chosen?

Romans 9:14-15 (NIV)

¹⁴What then shall we say? Is God unjust? Not at all!

¹⁵For he says to Moses,

“I will have mercy on whom I have mercy,
and I will have compassion on whom I have compassion.”

The real issue is not that Esau was not chosen. The miracle is that Jacob was chosen. It is God's choice! It is God's Grace! God gives a clear explanation of HIS choice, of HIS Grace!

Romans 9:16 (NIV)

It does not, therefore, depend on human desire or effort, but on God's mercy.

Salvation is not based on our desire or effort. God's people are saved through God's Grace and HIS Grace alone. God gives an explanation of how through Grace, HE works for good and "at the same time" uses the existing evil to serve HIS purposes. An Egyptian Pharaoh enslaved God's people.

Romans 9:17-18 (NIV)

¹⁷For Scripture says to Pharaoh: "I raised you up for this very purpose, that I might display my power in you and that my name might be proclaimed in all the earth." ¹⁸Therefore God has mercy on whom he wants to have mercy, and he hardens whom he wants to harden."

The evil Pharaoh of Egypt on whom God poured out 9 plagues was raised up for that very purpose to show God's power. Moses went head-to-head with Pharaoh. Moses and Pharaoh both were raised up by God. Some of us will argue with God. We say, "God you are not fair." Or how does anyone have a choice? Therefore, how could God ever rightly judge anyone?

God anticipating our question is ready with HIS reply.

Romans 9:19-20 (NIV)

¹⁹One of you will say to me: “Then why does God still blame us? For who is able to resist God’s will?” ²⁰But who are you, a human being, to talk back to God? “Shall what is formed say to the ONE who formed it, **‘Why did YOU make me like this?’**”

God is sovereign, majestic, and all powerful working all things for HIS intended purposes. Therefore, we need to humble ourselves in awe and honor HIM. Because bottom line, “Who are we, a human being, to talk back to God?” God warns us of this humanistic attitude of judging God in the OT.

Isaiah 29:16 (NIV)

You (people) turn things upside down,
as if the potter were thought to be like the clay!
Shall what is formed say to the one who formed it,
“You did not make me”?
Can the pot say to the potter,
“You know nothing”?

People turn things upside down. God uses the example of a potter making a clay pot. Can the clay pot say to the potter, “You did not make me” and “You know nothing”? Of course, the real question is why HE puts up with any of us. Again, the real question is why HE would ever choose any of us.

Ephesians 1:4

For **God chose us** in him before the creation of the world to be holy and blameless in his sight.

This is a miracle, “God chose us!” Why God chose us is even a bigger miracle!

1Corinthians 1:27 (NIV)

But **God chose the foolish things** of the world to shame the wise; **God chose the weak things** of the world to shame the strong.

There are many things we do not understand. We can waste our lifetime questioning God’s choice, HIS sovereignty, or we can embrace HIS grace. From our human point of view, God gives us a clear understanding of HIS choice.

Romans 9:33 (NIV)

They stumbled over **the stumbling stone**. As it is written: “See, I lay in Zion **a stone** that causes people to stumble and **a rock** that makes them fall, and the one who believes in him will never be put to shame.”

Therefore, we focus on what we do understand. We are God’s chosen through Jesus Christ. Thus, we choose to agree with God and preach Christ crucified.

1Corinthians 1:23 (NIV)

We preach Christ crucified: **a stumbling block** to Jews and **foolishness** to Gentiles!