

Romans 9 Whom He Wills

12/20/09 - The Exchange

- I. Running start (every message should be a Christmas message)
 - A. Context connection - not able to be separated from God's love toward us. But why not?
 - B. Out theological comfort zone. The pendulum. Outside our zone.
- II. 9:1-13
 - A. 9:1-5
 - I. 9:1-2 Sorrow and grief with joy in the believer? Sure. Without the believer dynamic there could be no joy. Death of another believer, the lostness of a loved one, anything.
 2. 9:3-5 Who is Paul sad over?
 - a) countrymen according to the flesh
 - b) Israelites
 - c) The ones who were given the adoption, glory, covenants, law, service of God, promises
 - d) The ones through whom Jesus came.
 - e) Any confusion here? Historically there should be no more Israel. God has preserved and still has a plan for Israel.
 - B. 9:6-13
 - I. 9:6-9 Whiplash! Who/what is Israel? What about the church?
 - a) Israel
 - (1) The man
 - (2) The people group of his descendants that bear his name, given an identity by the Law, given a land to live in, and given promises of a future.
 - (3) A united kingdom, a divided kingdom (north called Israel), an occupied kingdom
 - (4) A scattered people group, a resurrected modern entity, a future kingdom.
 - (5) Jesus on stones and sons of Abraham.
 - (6) The point is that the ones who accept the promises demonstrate that they are the real deal, that they get the point.
 - b) The Church
 - (1) Entirely Israelite/Jewish at the beginning.
 - (2) The Gentiles got saved, which was one of the functions of Israel as a called people, to be used to draw people into relationship with God.
 - (3) Like Israel without borders, without a national identity.
 - c) God still has promises to be fulfilled to the Israelite people, the nation, promises that have nothing to do with the church. While one is a fulfillment of the other in many ways, they are not the same. Don't confuse them.
 2. 9:10-13 The swing to the other side of the pendulum, outside our comfort zone.
 - a) God's plan involves distinction between called and not.
 - b) 9:11 nails it - not what we do, but what God has done.

III. 9:14-33 Paul asks the tough questions before we can!

- A. 9:14-18 God can do whatever he wants to do. He's God.
1. 9:14 It would be unrighteous for god to go against his nature, to contradict his plan.
 2. 9:15-16 Ultimately, God does what He does because He wants to, not because we deserve it.
 3. 9:17-18 Why does God do what He does? This is why.
 - a) Man born blind. Do you think he wondered why himself?
 - b) Our woes. Jonah's leg, Jer aspie, me social anxiety and a pastor? Tons of churches that would never hire me because I'm not ideal. Thankfully his definition of ideal is way different..
 - c) Exodus 4:21. Sometimes it says God did, other times Pharaoh did.
 - d) Interesting that we don't criticize authors for writing bad guys, and for having them punished in the end. Difference between justice, brutality, and which side you see it from.
 - e) Getting to Gods best for me in this life isn't always, isn't usually comfortable. Just look at the people Paul has referred to thus far.
 - f) God uses liars, murderers, adulterers, thieves, betrayers, mutilators, con men, and ordinary nobodies.
 - g) But back to the sovereignty of God.
- B. 9:19-29
1. 9:19-21 Who are we to question God? We put ourselves in the position of judging God, not cool. How did God answer Job?
 2. 9:22-24 Basically saying, "So what if God wanted to do it this way?" Wrath on those made for it, glory and mercy made for it.
 - a) Does God send people to Hell? Does God predestine people for Hell against their will? Or did God know in advance who would chose Him and who would not and that's how it works?
 - b) First of all, trying to wrap mind around perspective it can't.
 - c) Second, we all deserve Hell! Should all be sent there. We should be more hung up on the fact that anyone can be saved! World assumes Heaven, surprised by Hell. Should be the other way around.
 - d) Again, what God has done, not what we do.
 3. 9:25-29 Paul's mini study. Point being God does the work.
- C. 9:30-33
1. Salvation is by faith in what God has done, not what we do.
 2. What has God done? Jesus; a true stumbling stone that trips up the world.
 3. Jesus heritage, birth, life, death, resurrection, glorification at the heart of gods plot, and he created us to have a part in that.

IV. Wrap up

- A. With God's word in hand, there is no such thing as blind faith.
- B. Even as God is sovereign, He wants to interact with you.
- C. We can trust that no matter what, God is in control, and it's His best