

Romans

(32) The Sovereignty of God

Paul's anguish over the nation of Israel...9:1-13

What is Paul's heart regarding his 'brothers', of Israel? 9:1-3a

Great sorrow, anguish in his heart, for those of Israel who are not saved.

How deep was his concern for them? vs.3a cp.Ex.32:32

He could wish himself cursed, cut off from Christ, if that would bring them to Christ.

Did the knowledge of God's choosing, election, foreknowledge, justification, diminish this?

Absolutely not. Paul knew salvation is of God's choosing, but he worked like it was his!

Paul reminds us all of what things re Israel? 9:4-5

They were 'chosen' to receive the law, temple, promises, patriarchs, lineage of Christ...

Lest we conclude that God's word (promises) had failed, what does he point out? vs.6-7

The promises were not made to all descendants of Abraham. 'in Isaac' is the seed called.

Example #1: God sovereignly chooses between Abraham's sons by two women.

What is the description of those who are *saved* of Abraham? vs.8-9

It's not the natural children, but it's the children of promise who are the true seed.

What fundamental truth about salvation is Paul restating here? vs.15-16; Jn.1:12-13

It's not of blood (Jewish), will of the flesh (natural lineage), it's of God. His choice.

Example #2: God sovereignly chooses between Isaac's two sons, before birth, of one woman.

Paul continues his examples of God's choosing by reminding us of what other event? vs.10-11

Twins, both of Abraham/Isaac. Before birth, God chose Jacob and rejected Esau.

What is the focal point of this example? vs.10-11

One father, one mother, not yet born (no good/bad). It's God's purpose in Election.

But, wait a minute, Paul. Isn't God unjust?...9:14-18

Having taught/examined that God sovereignly chooses, what's he anticipate? response? vs.14

That's not fair! God is acting unjustly! His response? No way! May it never be!

What does he now quote from the OT? vs.15 cp.Ex.33:19

I (God) will have mercy/compassion on whom I have mercy/compassion. Sovereign...

What is absolutely clear in verse 16?

Man's will and/or effort are not involved. It depends on God's choice to have mercy.

Example #3: Pharaoh was raised up (to power), and hardened, to display God's power.

Paul now adds another truth about God's sovereignty. What is it? vs.17-18

Pharaoh illustrates that God also hardens (allows to continue unrestrained) whom He wills

And just to be sure we've really understood what he's teaching, what's Paul anticipate? vs.19

If this is all true, how can God still blame (condemn) us? Who can resist His will?

Next: The inspired answer to everyone's question. What Paul says, and doesn't say!