

God's Purpose and Prerogative – Part 2

Introduction

- All of God's acts or works are design to bring glory to Him alone.
- Election is the unchallenged prerogative of God to choose specific individuals to be saved from eternal judgment & given eternal life before anyone was created.
- God's purpose of election does not change because of the individuals or the circumstances of their lives (v. 10).
- God's purpose of election is not affected by time (v. 11a).
- God's purpose of election is independent of individual's deeds or potential in life (v. 11b).
- God's purpose of election brings glory to Him only (v. 11b-13). *He has the authority (prerogative) to accept some people & reject others [loved/hated].*

I. God's Purpose is Just (Rom. 9:14-15)

A. His divine character ensures it (Rom. 9:14)

Election is a difficult concept to accept naturally or humanly. The natural human response feels that God is unfair in electing some & rejecting others. But the renewed mind of the believer knows this cannot be true – "By no means". God is holy, perfect & incapable of injustice (2Chr. 19:7; Ps. 92:15). God Himself is the basis & standard of justice, fairness & righteousness.

B. His divine sovereignty secures it (Rom. 9:15)

*The sovereignty of God is His absolute right to do all things according to His own good pleasure (1Tim. 6:15b-16). God's rule & authority can never be successfully challenged (Job 42:2). God is the source of mercy & compassion so that He alone determines who will be the recipients (v. 15). No one deserves mercy & compassion, because all people are equally sinners. No one deserves forgiveness because we all were ungodly, unrighteous, unloving, unforgiving, lovers of sin & enemies of God. Yet God said **I will** have mercy on you; **I will** have compassion on you!*

II. God's Purpose is Merciful (Rom. 9:16-18)

A. Excludes any human merit (Rom. 9:16)

No human being desires salvation & a right relationship with God naturally. Not human being pursues (seeks after) God & a right relationship with Him naturally. No human being ever initiates salvation & a right relationship with God – people never choose God first; no human initiative. Election & salvation always begin with God from His mercy; He takes the initiative.

B. Involves God's glory & prerogative (Rom. 9:17-18)

Pharaoh was the proud & arrogant ruler of the most powerful dynasty on earth at the time – Egypt. Pharaoh & the Egyptians enslaved & abused Israel for 400 years. Pharaoh's power, Israel's bondage & God's mighty deliverance were all part of God's awesome purpose (v. 17) – raised up, brought into & delivered out of. God has the prerogative to accept some people [has mercy] & reject others [hardens] – v. 18.

ILL: Leprosy is a dreaded bacterial disease that spreads throughout a person's body causing internal & external damage that can lead to death. There were 10 lepers; all healed & only 1 gave God thanks (Lk. 17:11-19). How many deserved mercy? NONE, but all received it. There were 10 guilty criminals before a judge; 9 are punished & 1 is pardoned in mercy. How many deserved mercy? How many received injustice? **NONE!**

APPL: The same is true with our God [the True Judge] & us [His people]. I am among those guilty sinners that received mercy that I did not deserve; and you are too! We can say with Paul, "But God being rich in mercy, because of the great love with which he loved us, made us alive together with Christ – by grace you have been saved...". We can say with Peter, "Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! According to his great mercy, he has caused us to be born again to a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead...".