

God's Purpose and Prerogative – Part 3

Introduction

- Election is the prerogative of God to choose specific individuals for salvation & eternal life before birth or creation.
- God's purpose of election is independent of the individuals involved, time, the circumstances of their lives, their deeds or their potential in life (v. 10-11).
- 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].*
- God's purpose of election is just [fair] because of His character & sovereignty (v. 14-15).
- God's purpose of election is merciful excluding human merit while upholding His glory & divine prerogative (v. 16-18).

I. God's Purpose is Without Fault (Rom. 9:19-20)

A. Human responsibility for unbelief & sin (Rom. 9:19)

God loves some & hates others, has mercy on some & hardens other, so then how can He blame people for sin & unbelief? The natural human reasoning is since no one can be saved unless God takes the initiative, then no one is responsible for remaining a sinner. God has never caused anyone to sin or forced anyone to remain a sinner (Ps. 51:5; Jn. 3:19; Jas. 1:13-15). God simply allows many people to continue uninterrupted in their love for sin.

B. Human submission to divinity (Rom. 9:20)

God gives people such great liberties in life & it is tempting to think or speak arrogantly about God. People have the ability to reason in pride & arrogance (Pr. 16:18; Rom. 12:3). God is not obligated to explain all of His thoughts or ways to humanity – we have to accept them by faith (Is. 55:8-9). Believers must humbly accept our limited knowledge regarding election & God's omniscience (Deu. 29:29). We must humbly trust the Lord when things are hard to understanding (Pr. 3:5).

II. God's Purpose Reveals His Glory (Rom. 9:21-24)

A. God's glory in wrath (Rom. 9:21-22)

God is the potter (Creator) & people are the clay (that which is created). In the beginning God alone created... All people since Adam & Eve are born into this world equally sinners – “the same lump”. All sinners are born with a different purpose – “use” [honorable/dishonorable = Jacob/Esau, Moses/Pharaoh]. Sin must be judged but God is merciful even in judgment – “endured with much patience” (v. 22). Anger & judgment are aspects of God's holy character & His glory (Rev. 19:1-4)!

B. God's glory in redemption (Rom. 9:23-24)

God also demonstrates the abundance of His mercy by forgiving some sinners – “riches of his glory” (v. 23). These are sinners from “the same lump” who deserve judgment but receive mercy. These are the elect chosen by God without any bias or injustice – “he has prepared beforehand”, “Jews” & “Gentiles”. We who were once lost & enemies of God have now received mercy & forgiveness

Rom. 9:10-24

(Eph. 2:4-5). Mercy is also an aspect of God's holy character & His glory (Rev. 5:9-14)!

ILL: The general manager of a professional baseball team has significant responsibilities. Among the responsibilities is selecting players for the team from massive numbers of potential players. All players come from the same resource pool – athletes. The manager knows the needs of the team & he selects only a few players from the massive number of candidates. Many are not selected & passed over. A wise manager is praised for both his wise selections & the ones he passed over that couldn't help his team; praised for the ones he selected & rejected because that was his prerogative for his team.

APPL: The same is true with our God who is the true Master, Manager & Ruler of all creation & all humanity. God is perfect in knowledge & wisdom; He never makes errors in His selection or rejection of people. He never makes an error in redemption or judgment in wrath. Therefore He is worthy to be praised whether in redemption or judgment!