

## God's Purpose and Prerogative – Part 4

### 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, their deeds or their potential in life (v. 10-11).
- God's purpose of election is just [fair] without fault because of His holy character & sovereignty (v. 14-15, 19-20).
- God's purpose of election is merciful excluding human merit while upholding His glory & divine prerogative (v. 16-18). "You did not choose me, but I chose you..."
- God's purpose of election reveals His glory in accepting some people & rejecting others which involves wrath & redemption (v. 12-13, 21-24).

### I. God's Purpose Involves Present Service (Rom. 9:21-26)

#### A. A vessel for honorable use (Rom. 9:21)

*It is a great honor & privilege to be in the family of God (1Jn. 3:1; Ps. 23:1; Eph. 2:19) – children, sheep & citizens. But we are not in the family to be idle, lazy or unproductive. We are vessels for God's use. God Himself determines what is honorable – may involve trials, tests & suffering for righteousness sake (Mt. 5:10-11; Jas. 1:2-3; 1Pe. 4:12). Job experienced the plans God had for his use – financial loss, death of children, sickness, discouragement, etc. Our bodies are a living sacrifice for God (Rom. 12:1).*

#### B. A vessel of mercy (Rom. 9:23-26)

*Mercy implies that all sinners are in desperate need of God's help – helpless. God reveals the abundance of His mercy by saving some of the worst sinners – Gentiles (v. 24). Gentiles had no knowledge of God's law, commandments, promises, etc. – lived in spiritual darkness & sin (v. 25-26). Gentiles grew up in darkness, all they knew & loved was darkness; loved sin & hated God – yet God has called these wicked sinners to salvation by His abundant mercy. God still saves some of the worst sinners – liars, thieves, alcoholics, drug addicts, fornicators, homosexuals, swindlers, convicts, etc. "And such were some of you. But you were washed..." (1Co. 6:11). "But God, being rich in mercy... (Eph. 2:4-5). **All believers are vessels of mercy!***

### II. God's Purpose Involves Future Glory (Rom. 8:28-30)

#### A. All things work together for good (Rom. 8:28-29)

*God is the potter (Creator) & people are the clay (that which is created). The Potter already knows the image for the clay – what He's making. The Almighty Potter can use all of the circumstances of life to shape the clay into the perfect image of beauty & grace (v. 28). God's "purpose" is that every believer would be conformed into the image of Christ – "good" (v. 29). Christ was the "firstborn" & example for all the rest of God's children – we will be like Him (Phil. 1:6).*

#### B. All saints are destined for glory (Rom. 8:30)

*Every verb in this passage is in the past tense – "foreknew", "predestined", "called", "justified" & "glorified". God considers it already done; every saint is*

*glorified to God – nothing can prevent the saint from being glorified (8:31-38). The sufferings that believers endure in life are insignificant compared to our future glory (8:18).*

**ILL:** Many medications have a warning notification, “WARNING: Use this product only as directed” or “This product is safe only for its intended use”. Many household products have a similar warning, “This product is effective only for its intended use”. Certain kitchen utensils are only effective for their intended use: slicing eggs, dicing tomatoes, grading cheese, mixing batters, etc. These products have a shelf life or a period of usefulness & then they must be thrown away.

**APPL:** Likewise Christians have a similar warning from God: we will only be effective when we function in what God has called us to do. The Master has made us for a specific purpose in life & we are useful for a limited period of time. But thank God He does not throw us away when our time & usefulness is up; but we go home to be with the Lord forever & ever!