

Title: ~~God has shown His Grace Towards Us~~ *Why Paul and God's Purpose*

Text: Romans 9:6-13

Would you take your Bibles, please and turn to the Book of Romans. The Book of Romans chapter 9 beginning with Vs 6. There are notes in your bulletin and I hope you will use them as we study God's Word together. Romans 9: verse 6.....

(Read Romans 9:6-13)

Prayer

In chapters 9 - 10 - and 11, Paul with some problems that have resulted in his thinking concerning the great principles of God's ~~righteousness~~ righteousness... And in these chapters Paul is asking the question WHAT ABOUT THE FAITHFULNESS OF GOD TO WHAT HE PROMISED IN THE O.T. NOW THAT THE NATION OF ISRAEL HAS TURNED ITS BACK ON JESUS AS THE MESSIAH. How will all of those promises be fulfilled?

(1B) ~~So~~ Last week we began with Paul's concern over the rejection of Israel.

(1C) And we noticed ~~that~~ that the rejection of Israel brought great sorrow to Paul. And this sorrow was seen (1D) in his personal feelings.

And ~~secondly~~ ^{also} (2D) we notice the sorrow of Paul as he realized the blessings that the Jews had been promised in the O.T.

(2C) Now, the second way that I want you to see the rejection of Israel in chapter 9 is in the selection of the seed.

I want to warn you about this section of God's Word. I don't think there is a chapter in God's Word that causes people more difficulties, ~~misunderstandings~~ misunderstandings than this one. But before we look at it I want to ask you a question. DO YOU BELIEVE WHAT YOU ARE READING IS THE TRUTH? If you believe what you are reading is the truth, it eliminates a lot of problems that demands simple reception. You see, we often question what the Word of God says or doesn't say. Because in our life from a human ~~point~~ point of view, we might believe something else. The question is: when you come to the Bible do you believe this is the truth? And if it disagrees with some thing that you ~~feel~~ feel, or hold, or is ~~seen~~ seen in life, will you renounce what you believe and accept this as being God's Word...?

You see, your whole attitude and approach to the truth is tied up in how you answer that question. Is this the truth or isn't it? Because we are now entering into a section of scripture that many folks say: "THIS IS A HARD TEACHING." A HARD PRINCIPLE TO UNDERSTAND AND ACCEPT. But we need to accept it as the truth of God as given and believe it.

Now, beginning with Vs 6 we have two cases or examples that are given to us where we see the rejection of Israel in the selection of the seed. What happened to Israel as a nation was not co-essential. But it was a part of God's plan. Now, two examples are given.

(1) First of all, we have the example of Isaac and Ishmael . That is verse 6 to 9. And I want you to look at it carefully. There are two things that I want to share with you about the example of Isaac and Ishmael.

Vs 6 says, "But it is not as though the word of God has failed." Now, if the nation of Israel has not responded, says, Paul, I just want you to know that it is not the fault of the Word of God.

The Bible says that the Word of God will not return void. But it will accomplish the things for which God sent it. Many people were rejecting the message. But Paul says, "Listen, there is nothing wrong with the Word of God."

Vs 6 says....(Read Vs 6b-7)

(1) The first thing that I want you to know about the example of Isaac and Ishmael is that the plan of God does not include all people. Listen to me again. The plan of God ~~for~~ for salvation does not include all people.

You say, "Now, wait a minute. Didn't Christ die for all people?" Yes, he did...His atonement is sufficient for everyone who has ever lived.

Well, doesn't that mean that all will be saved?...NO! it does not mean that all will be saved.....

Well, doesn't the Bible says that God is not willing that any should perish?.....Yes, of course. The heart of God loves all people.

~~Will~~, all people be saved and be in heaven?...NO...All people will not be saved and be in heaven.

O.K. how do we explain this? God gave us an illustration in the case of Isaac and Ishmael to show us that the plan of God does not include all men.

He said they are not all Israel who are of Israel. They are not all the seed of Abraham just because Abraham was their father.

Now, let's review the story in Genesis. In Genesis Abraham through ~~his~~ Sarah's handmaiden, Hagar, had a son named Ishmael. And Abraham prayed to God and ask God that Ishmael be the promised seed. And God said. NO...

~~And~~ ^{So} all the descendants of Ishmael are not the ~~descendants~~ ^{children} of the promise. But they are the seed of Abraham. So, you see, not all who are born out-off Abraham's descendants are the seed; ~~the~~ ^{the} promised ~~seed~~ ^{seed} that leads to the Messiah. OH...No... "In Isaac your descendants will be named," says Vs 7. And that is very, very important,...

Remember, also, that Abraham married the woman named Katura. Katura had many sons. What about those sons? Aren't they the seed of Abraham? NO....Not all who are of Israel are the true Israel....And that is very important to understand.

God's plan does not include all people. And that is why he gave us the example of Isaac and Ishmael.

Now, another thing about that plan. You know, Abraham was not evil to produce the ones who would be saved. Abraham could not even produce the seed. He was a hundred years old. His body was now dead, says the Bible. He couldn't produce children. Sarah was 90 years old. And she was barren, says the Bible. She couldn't produce children either.

It is interesting to me that it took the supernatural power of God to create a baby in the womb of Sarah. And if you laugh at that remember that Sarah did also. So, you are not the first one to laugh. And by the way, that is the meaning of the name Isaac. It means "laughter." It is a reminder to people that God saves people.

Abraham couldn't produce kids and say, "Hey, God take your choice." OH..NO..God performed a miracle in Abraham's seed and Sarah's womb.

By the way, when you come to ~~this~~ ^{Jesus}, I just want you to know, that it is the miracle and power of God that changes you. You don't change yourself. We are not talking about turning over a new leaf. Or, ~~reform~~ reforming yourself. We are talking about something that God will do in you by his own power. He will change you and make you a new creature in Christ Jesus.

God is able to do that. We don't do that. That is very, very important. The plan of God does not include all of that. That is clear from the Bible. And we need to accept it.

(2) The second thing that I want you to notice about the case of Isaac and Ishmael is that the promise of God was very selective. Very selective.

Vs 8 says, ...(Read Vs 8 and 9)

Now, he is very selective. They are regarded as descendants. WHY DID HE SAY THAT? Because God in that marvilous line of the Messiah keep putting in people, even Gentiles, who you would think didn't belong in the line. "Children of the promise are regarded as descendants."

Why, when you are pronounced righteous by God, ~~is it~~ put to your account? ~~Because you believe the Gospel. Not because you are righteous. Non of us are. ~~Stand in the righteousness of Christ.~~ I am perfect not because I deminstrate that in my life. But because I stand in a perfect life of Jesus Christ. The righteousness of Christ is my substitution. I believe it. And I accept it.~~

So they are regarded descendants. You have unusuallly cases. Some people in the line are down right wicked. Yet, they were brought right into the Messanic line by God.

God always changes gears in the way we think it ought to happen...WHY? To prove to us that his promise is selective. That He is in control. That he is doing what He wants to do.

(2) Now, the second ~~the~~ illustration is in verses 10 to 13. The second illustration concerns Esau and Jacob.

(1) I would like you to notice, first of all, the cause behind this selection. What does God say is the ~~ultimate~~ ^{ULTIMATE} cause behind the selction of Jacob over Esau.?

Now, without looking at Vs 11, if I were to send a little survey around the audance as to what you thought was the cause ^{OF} why God choose Jacob who was not the first born, Esau was, Why did God ~~EN~~ choose Jacob instead of Esau? We pass around this little survey and you give your opinion. You know, it might be interesting what we would come up with.

What is the cause of selecting Jacob over Esau?

Now, let's look at Vs 10.....(Read Vs 10-13)

I would like you to notice four things about the cause behind the selection of Jacob over Esau.

(1) Number one, according to the Bible it is not the result of a family.

It says in Vs 11 "for the twins were not yet born."

Before, Jacob and Esau were born God made the selection. Now, listen, you may have been born into a Christian family or you may have grown up in the church, but that does not guarantee you eternal life. You are not in the family of God just because you are a member of a christian family or a member of a church. The selection of God preceeds birth.

(2) Secondly, it is not the result of good or evil. According to Vs 11,

"and had not done anything good or bad."

Now, whether we like it or not, a man centered viewpoint usually take over much of our witnessing and thinking. Here is an example.

Boy, isn't that a fine person. He is terrific. Boy, if God would only get awhole of him.....WHAT DO YOU MEAN, IF GOD COULD GET AWHOLE OF HIM? WHAT DO YOU MEAN THAT HE IS A FINE AND WONDERFUL PERSON?

"Whether they had done any good or bad, God had already made the selection. Who are we to water down God to the point that we pull the strings and demand that He operate because we made a choice? God made the selection before these children had ever done any good or bad.

Let me give you another example. We often see a person who is just loaded down with sin in his life. And he looks ~~awful~~ awful to all of us. And some of us would say, "Man, he deserves what he is going to get."

And God will just save him and prove us all wrong....It is not the result of you. You maybe setting right here listening to this sermon and saying..."listen, if you knew the sin in my life you would know that I couldn't become a christian."

Friends, it is not the results of you trying to become a christian. Non of us can do that. It is the result of God's power to change you. All God ask you to do is to believe His message...

He is not asking you to go out of here and try to clean up your own life. You cannot do it. No matter what your sin, God loves you so much. He not only is going to forgive you, he already accomplished it over 1900 years ago. ~~When~~ When Jesus died on the cross all of your sin was placed on Jesus. Everything you have ever done or could do. Salvation is not the result of good or bad done in a person's life.

(3) The third thing I notice in Vs 11..It is not of works. You know, there is not one single act or work that you could do in order to be saved.

You know, if it were true, we would come up with some cut little ways of earning salvation. You know, run around the church 10 times and you would receive eternal life. Give so much money and you would earn eternal life. Join this church and be saved.

What are we talking about? Do good unto your neighbor. Keep the golden rule. Friends, it is not of works, that the selection of God is made. So, no matter what good things you think you have done to deserve heaven, the Bible says that it is not of any works at all.

SO WHAT IS THE ULTIMATE CAUSE?.

(4) That is the fourth thing. Of ~~course~~ course it is God. But notice the specifics.

Vs 11..."That God's purpose according to His choice might stand."

Now, what is the purpose of God according to choice or election?

So, far we have established this according to the Bible regardless of ~~how~~ you interpret this.

The Word of God has said that even before children are born God made a choice. Even before anyone has done good or bad, God made a choice. Even before you demonstrated any good works, God made a choice.

Now, the Bible has established that. And if you don't agree with that. Your battle is with the Word of God.

SO, the question is WHY?.....So that God's purpose according to His choice or election might stand.

Now, what is that purpose? What reason would God have in selecting people ahead of time?

Take your Bibles, please, and turn to Ephesians chapter 1. Epheians chapter 1. This is a hard saying alright. But it is one that we all need to understand. Salvation is based upon the nature of God. Not on the response of man. God saved people because of who He is. Not because of what people do. Look at Ephesians chapter 1 verse 4...."just as He chose us" The word "chose" is the same word "chice or elect" in Romans 9. It means to select ahead of time. Select right out of the vast majority of humanity that ~~go~~ doesn't choose Him. God selects..NOW WHEN DID HE SELECT? When DID **He** ELECT PEOPLE? "Just as He chose us in Him before the fundation of the world."

Listen, before the creation of the world ~~god~~ made his chose...HOW ABOUT THAT?....Now, put that in a perspective of you setting right where you are right now.....

Why God knows your needs. He has all the hairs of your head numbered. Even when you lose them. He can subtrat, alright. He knows them all. There isn't anything that God doesn't know. And he has already made a selection. And this was done before anyone was born.

You say, "That is unfair".....OH!....I believe God created not you....

WHAT DO YOU MEAN..NO FAIR?.....It is God who is controling this stream of history. And if you, right now, think that man is in charge of the destiny of his soul, you are on the wrong track.

First of all, man has deminstated clearly that he cannot control his own destiny. Oh, no, God is in control alright. You may just not understand it, yet. But the Bible teaches that God chose us before the foundation of the world....WHY?....(Read Vs 4b-5)WHY?....HERE IS THE ANSWER..... Here is the object and the goal of God's selection....(READ Vs 6-7)

Why did God chose you and me before we were born? Before we have done any good or evil? Regardless of what works we had done? WHY DID GOD CHOSE US IN THIS MANNER?

SO THAT WE WILL PRAISE THE GLORY OF HIS GRACE.....

Do you know that if there is any act that you do in order to be saved, at that point you wouldn't praise God for his grace...Naturally, because you did it...

It is like going to heaven and saying, "Isn't God lucky to have me in heaven."....That is nonsense.

But many of us demonstrate that idea by the way we live and act towards the God who made us. God who is God and he says that He has made the choice before we were even born.

It is a hard teaching...You say, "If this is true there is nothing we can do about it.".....RIGHT!!!!...There is nothing we can do about it...

You say..."Nothing?"....Well, then I might as well not receive Christ... GO AHEAD AND TRY.....Why listen, if God has selected you in his love he is going to draw you unto himself. Why he is going to work in your life.

I have seen people boldly fight against God. And have declared that they want nothing to do with Jesus Christ. And then in one moment in their life, God took them and changed them around.

Why, he can do that with anyone of us any time he wants to. He loves you. And if God has chosen you, don't you misinterpret those feelings in your heart when you long and desire to draw closer to God. Don't you misinterpret. God is drawing you unto himself. God loves you.

And the Bible says that God is a very patient God. He will stay with you. ~~But He is~~ Because He is drawing you unto himself.

And you may fight it. You may resist it. You may say, it is not for me. But God loves you and he will not let you go.

And the Holy Spirit of God is so powerful He is going to draw you unto himself. He wants you. And he is after you.

And the Bible is tremendous when it indicates why God is doing this. Because one day in heaven God will fulfill the ultimate objective that He had in the first place. And that is that all ~~creation~~ creation will praise and honor and glorify his name.

WHY WILL WE DO THAT? Because when we get to heaven we will finally realize that we didn't have a cotten picking thing to do with our salvation. And we are going to realize that God loves us and that is why we are in heaven. Because God chose us before the foundation of the world in order the praise the glory of his grace....

()And that is the finally thing from Romans 9. The chose is God's along.

Vs 13.."Jacob I loved, but Esau I hated."

And that is hard for us to understand. Many people don't like it. But it is there in the Word of God. And it is there to help us to understand. That the chose is God's alone.

Some people are going to experience the wrath of God.

You say, "Hay, wait a minute. That doesn't seem fair." But, friends, all people are not in netral gear. We are all heading towards Hell..If God just left us alone that is where we would all end up. Our destiny is Hell. We all deserve Hell. Whether one sin or a thousand, we all deserve to be separated from God forever.

It is a miracle that God takes any of us out of our true destiny Hell. It is a miralce that God choose any of us to be saved.

And listen, if you know, you are setting here this morrowing and you know that you are a believer, that you are on your way to heaven. Then every day you ought to prise God that He, because of who He is, not because of who you are or what you have done, but because of who he is, that he has choosen you to be part of his grace.

The Bible says that God who is rich in mercy continues to show His grace and kindness towards us throughout all the ages.

Let's close with prayer