

# *“10 Reflections on Election”*

Romans 9

\*\*\* VIDEO: Is God Good? \*\*\*

**I. AFFECTION in ELECTION (v.1-3) = *I am telling the truth in Christ, I am not lying, my conscience testifies with me in the Holy Spirit, 2 that I have great sorrow and unceasing grief in my heart. 3 For I could wish that I myself were accursed, separated from Christ for the sake of my brethren, my kinsmen according to the flesh...***

1. Christ's love...
2. Christian "family" love...
3. Contrast genuine Christian love to "shallow cultural love" of today...

**II. REJECTION in ELECTION (v.4-5) = *...who are Israelites, to whom belongs the adoption as sons, and the glory and the covenants and the giving of the Law and the temple service and the promises, 5 whose are the fathers, and from whom is the Christ according to the flesh, who is over all, God blessed forever. Amen.***

1. Some reject the invitation of God...
  - a. **Therein they maintain responsibility for their sins**
  - b. Their "freedom" is limited to confirming God's plan, not changing it
2. **Not being chosen in the "elect" of God is not the same as being "chosen for wrath"**
3. God's foreknowing of those who would receive eternal wrath is not the same as making Him responsible for "damning" those not chosen... (a.k.a. "double predestination")
  - a. **All who spend eternity in hell will do so in the midst of these 2 realities:**
    - a.i. **God knew before time began who would come under His wrath**
    - a.ii. **God created humanity with just enough freedom of choice to:**
      - a.ii.1. **Make His offer of salvation by grace through faith an authentic and eternity shaping invitation**
      - a.ii.2. **Hold each person eternally responsible for their unredeemed sins**
  - b. **Likewise, all who spend eternity in heaven will do so... 2 realities:**
    - b.i. **God knew before time began who would be rescued by His grace**
    - b.ii. **God created humanity with just enough freedom of choice to:**
      - b.ii.1. **Make His conditional promise of eternal wrath the responsibility of each unrepented, unregenerated, sinner who dies without Jesus Christ as their personal Lord and Savior (here emphasizing Him as "Savior").**
      - b.ii.2. **Make His offer of salvation by grace conditional to the believer's acceptance of the gospel... by faith.**

III. PERFECTION in ELECTION (v.6a) = *But it is not as though the word of God has failed.*

KEY: 6a = theme of Romans 9

IV. SELECTION in ELECTION (6b-13)

- A. Grace Not Race (v.6a-7) = *For they are not all Israel who are descended from Israel; nor are they all children because they are Abraham's descendants, but: "THROUGH ISAAC YOUR DESCENDANTS WILL BE NAMED."*
- a. Salvation is based on God's grace vs. our race...
  - b. Neither Jewish parents then, nor church-going Christian parents now, determine who are the TRUE children of God.
    - b.i. Read Romans 2:28... it's your heart, not your heritage or activities
    - b.ii. Read Romans 3:9
    - b.iii. Read Romans 4:16
    - b.iv. Read Romans 10:12
  - c. **Grace is received by FAITH not family!**
- B. Promise Not Production (v.8-9) = *That is, it is not the children of the flesh who are children of God, but the children of the promise are regarded as descendants. 9 For this is the word of promise: "AT THIS TIME I WILL COME, AND SARAH SHALL HAVE A SON."*
- a. Salvation is based on God's promise vs. our production...
    - a.i. Isaac & Ishmael
      - a.i.1. God made a promise... **impatience turned into "production"**
      - a.i.2. Ishmael was the child of human "impatient production"
      - a.i.3. **Isaac was the child of God's promise!**
- C. Providence Not Performance (v.10-13) = *And not only this, but there was Rebekah also, when she had conceived twins by one man, our father Isaac; 11 for though the twins were not yet born and had not done anything good or bad, so that God's purpose according to His choice would stand, not because of works but because of Him who calls, 12 it was said to her, "THE OLDER WILL SERVE THE YOUNGER." 13 Just as it is written, "JACOB I LOVED, BUT ESAU I HATED."*

a. ***Jacob & Esau*** v.11 = theme of Romans ch.9 – ch.11

- a.i. *“If you could get to heaven by working for it, could you imagine what heaven would be like? Everyone would be bragging about how they got there... Heaven would be hell?”* - Rick Warren
- a.ii. Read **Ephesians 2:8**... now read **Ephesians 2:10** = full context truth
- a.iii. **Context is CRITICAL in this passage**
  - a.iii.1. Paul is quoting from Malachi 1
  - a.iii.2. Paul is NOT saying God hated Esau before he was born...
    - a.iii.2.a. BEWARE: some take this verse into theological heresy
    - a.iii.2.b. Some use this verse to question God’s love & goodness
    - a.iii.2.c. This is a historical reference to two countries (not individuals)
      - a.iii.2.c.i. Malachi ch.1 demonstrates this when read in full context...
      - a.iii.2.c.ii. The literary challenge is based on a lack of contextualization NOT a lack of love or goodness on God’s part!
  - a.iii.3. Full context shows that 1500+ years after these two individuals died, their lineage comprised two very different countries. Malachi was calling down judgment on Edom (Esau’s future people/country), for their sinful lifestyle and adversarial relationship with Israel (Jacob’s people/nation).
  - a.iii.4. Paul just quoted the first part of the Malachi verse because he knew his readers would understand the fuller context...

**V. OBJECTION in ELECTION (v.14-18) = *What shall we say then? There is no injustice with God, is there? May it never be!* **15** For He says to Moses, *“I WILL HAVE MERCY ON WHOM I HAVE MERCY, AND I WILL HAVE COMPASSION ON WHOM I HAVE COMPASSION.”* **16** So then it does not depend on the man who wills or the man who runs, but on God who has mercy. **17** For the Scripture says to Pharaoh, *“FOR THIS VERY PURPOSE I RAISED YOU UP, TO DEMONSTRATE MY POWER IN YOU, AND THAT MY NAME MIGHT BE PROCLAIMED THROUGHOUT THE WHOLE EARTH.”* **18** So then He has mercy on whom He desires, and He hardens whom He desires.**

- A. Mercy over Merit - *“It’s not by works of righteousness which we have done but according to mercy He has saved us.”* – **Titus 3:5**
- B. Moses & Pharaoh - Two murderous sinners... both “deserve” wrath...

**VI. EXCEPTION in ELECTION (v.19-24) = *You will say to me then, “Why does He still find fault? For who resists His will?”***

**\*\*\* VIDEO: Father’s will vs. “free-will” \*\*\***

**20** On the contrary, who are you, O man, who answers back to God? The thing molded will not say to the molder, "Why did you make me like this," will it? **21** Or does not the potter have a right over the clay, to make from the same lump one vessel for honorable use and another for common use? **22** **What if God, although willing to demonstrate His wrath and to make His power known, endured with much patience vessels of wrath prepared for destruction? 23 And He did so to make known the riches of His glory upon vessels of mercy, which He prepared beforehand for glory, 24 even us, whom He also called, not from among Jews only, but also from among Gentiles.**

- A. You cannot claim that God's sovereignty creates an exception to your responsibility for sin
- B. Don't ever lose sight of the difference between the Creator and the created...
- C. God's love, patience, mercy, sovereignty, & glory all shine through the doctrine of Election

**VII. INSPECTION in ELECTION (v.25-29) = As He says also in Hosea, "I WILL CALL THOSE WHO WERE NOT MY PEOPLE, 'MY PEOPLE,' AND HER WHO WAS NOT BELOVED, 'BELOVED.'" 26 "AND IT SHALL BE THAT IN THE PLACE WHERE IT WAS SAID TO THEM, 'YOU ARE NOT MY PEOPLE,' THERE THEY SHALL BE CALLED SONS OF THE LIVING GOD." 27 Isaiah cries out concerning Israel, "THOUGH THE NUMBER OF THE SONS OF ISRAEL BE LIKE THE SAND OF THE SEA, IT IS THE REMNANT THAT WILL BE SAVED; 28 FOR THE LORD WILL EXECUTE HIS WORD ON THE EARTH, THOROUGHLY AND QUICKLY." 29 And just as Isaiah foretold: "UNLESS THE LORD OF SABAOth HAD LEFT TO US A POSTERITY, WE WOULD HAVE BECOME LIKE SODOM, AND WOULD HAVE RESEMBLED GOMORRAH."**

- A. Hosea = Gentiles will be coming to the Lord... *more than the Jews expected.*
- B. Isaiah = Only a remnant of Jews will come to the Lord... *less than the Jews expected.*

**VIII. DETECTION in ELECTION (v.30) = *What shall we say then? That Gentiles, who did not pursue righteousness, attained righteousness, even the righteousness which is by faith...***

(grace alone by faith alone)

**IX. REJECTION in ELECTION (v.31-33) = *...but Israel, pursuing a law of righteousness, did not arrive at that law. 32 Why? Because they did not pursue it by faith, but as though it were by works. They stumbled over the stumbling stone, 33 just as it is written, "BEHOLD, I LAY IN ZION A STONE OF STUMBLING AND A ROCK OF OFFENSE, AND HE WHO BELIEVES IN HIM WILL NOT BE DISAPPOINTED."***

Stumble or Stand

a.i. STUMBLE = Sinful man's unrepentant, faithless, & unloving heart carry the burden of responsibility for each individual's REJECTION in ELECTION

a.ii. STAND = God empowers His elect, without coercion, to accept the full gospel by faith  
Affection in Election God's Truth in Love is the #1 reason to stand in/on Christ Jesus!

**X. PROTECTION in ELECTION (Romans 9's "election" follows Romans 8 "protection")**

"if God is for us, who can be against us"

\*\*\* VIDEO: "*Protection in Election*" \*\*\*

"no condemnation/no separation"

**FINAL THOUGHT.... "*Jacob I loved*"**

loving & electing Jacob proves God's love *IN* election...

Doctrine of Election proves God's love for sinners like you, me, & Jacob!