

Salt Church

Romans 9:6-13

“The Purpose of God”

January 18, 2026

The Greatest Book Ever Written

David and Cindy

Recap last week:

Romans 9:1-5

*9 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 brothers, my kinsmen according to the flesh, ⁴ 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 God over all, blessed forever. Amen.*

- **Paul was grieving over the rejection of Jesus Christ by his fellow Jews.**

- This rejection caused him to remind his readers of the favor that the Jewish people have enjoyed with God the Father
 - God had adopted them, meaning they were chosen by the Father to be His own..

- **This adoption came with** a series of covenants made with Abraham.
 - The first covenant was a covenant of blessing upon Abraham and his descendants.
 - God would bless and Abraham and his people would believe.
- **Through these people the Law was given.**
- God's glory was found upon them particularly when He led them out of Egypt.
 - In their tabernacle and temple.
 - Miraculous things occurred with food falling from heaven, water from rocks, great military victories.
 - Yes, God's favor was all over these people and still is!
- Paul also reminded us last week that most of the great heroes of the faith are Jewish.

We closed last Sunday with these words:

Jesus wasn't just for the Jews

- **Jesus is for everyone who will believe in their heart, confess with their mouth that Jesus is Lord.**

Today we will cover 7 verses God willing.

- Seven verses that you will find no shortage of commentary.
 - As we move through these verses I need to remind you of several things:

▪ This is 1st century Rome.

- They do not have access to a completed New Testament Bible.
- Most likely they do not have a complete set of the Old Testament writings. (Usually found at the Temple in Jerusalem)
- What they do have is this letter from the Apostle Paul.
 - A letter that was given to the Apostle Paul by the Spirit of God.
 - A letter that reveals so much about God, who He is, how He makes decisions, and the mystery that comes with all those decisions.

Here are a few verses that will help us focus as we move forward:

2 Timothy 3:16-17

*¹⁶ All Scripture is **God-breathed** and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, for training in righteousness, ¹⁷ so that the man of God may be equipped, having been thoroughly equipped for every good work.*

2 Timothy 1:8-9 (Timothy was struggling)

*⁸ Therefore do not be ashamed of either the witness about our Lord or me His prisoner, but join with me in suffering for the gospel according to the power of God,⁹ who has saved us and called us with a holy calling, **not according to our works,***

but according to His own purpose and grace which was given to us in Christ Jesus **from all eternity,**

“His own purpose and grace”

What do we know about God’s purpose and grace?

- **1st God’s purpose is eternal**
 - In other words, it does not originate from anything, or any action nor is it in response to anyone. (decisions)
- **2nd God’s purpose is related to Christ Jesus.**
 - What Jesus did is not an afterthought, it was known before the earth was made and therefore before we were made.
- **3rd God’s purpose is linked with grace.**
 - It is according to “His own purpose.”
 - His purpose was and is grace.
 - He decides who gets His grace
- **4th God’s purpose is the motivation of His saving grace on our life, not our works.**
 - This will make sense soon!
 - Hang in there.
 - The best example of this is Romans 8:28

Romans 8:28

²⁸ And we know that for those who love God all things work together for good, for those who are called according to His purpose.

So, when we read something like Romans 8:28 we can say, “***I don’t understand everything that happens in my life***” but I do believe and stand on God’s Word.

- I know that He has my good in mind.

Let’s look at today’s text

Romans 9:6-13

6 But it is not as though the word of God has failed.

- Again, we must remember that Paul is anticipating the arguments by his readers.
 - In this case it is that “God has failed to keep His promises.”
 - This is a very import question not only to the Jews but to all creation.
 - In other words, “can God be trusted?”
 - Paul answers this argument quickly.

For they are not all Israel who are descended from Israel; 7 nor are they all children because they are Abraham’s seed, but: “through Isaac your seed will be named.”

- Paul reminds his reader that not all of Abraham’s children were the children of promise.
- It was through Isaac that the promise would be kept.

8 That is, the children of the flesh are not the children of God, but the children of the promise are considered as seed.

- What is Paul saying through the power of the Holy Spirit?

- Just because you are Jewish does not mean that you are a child of the promise.
 - What is the promise?

9 For this is the word of promise: “At this time I will come, and Sarah shall have a son.”

- ***What does that mean?***

- It means that Hagar’s son Ishmael is not the son of promise but rather Sarah’s son Isaac is which insinuates something very important.

- ***It insinuates that God made that decision.***

- God chose Abraham...
 - He chose Isaac and not Ishmael.

- ***The crazy thing is this, no one seems to have an issue with that decision.***

- Just like no one has an issue with God choosing Abraham.

Here is where people struggle:

10 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 the purpose of God according to His choice would stand,

This is a VERY IMPORTANT STATEMENT!!!!

not because of works but because of Him who calls,¹² it was said to her, “The older shall serve the younger.”¹³ Just as it is written, “Jacob I loved, but Esau I hated.”

What do we do with that???????

- So, Isaac from whom the promises flow marries Rebekah and they do what married people do.
- She gets pregnant with twins.
 - Don't overlook the sovereign fact that God gave her twins.
 - To prove that He did He told her that she would have twins.
 - The is way before any kind of imagining.
- **She is told that she will have twins.**
 - The older will serve the younger.
 - This is not how the culture of the day works.
 - Even with twins, the oldest enjoys a greater inheritance.
 - But God says, not in this case.
 - And God expresses through the Apostle Paul why.

“so that the purpose of God according to His choice would stand, not because of works but because of Him who calls,”

- The purpose of this deviation is the revelation of this very important fact:
 - ***It is God's choice***, and He makes this decision without any outside influence.
 - He is sovereign and free to make any decision He wishes.
 - To express this truth, He gives us Esau and Jacob.

God could have said, “I see the future as clear as the present and Esau is awful.

- Think about this way:
 - We sit on this side of WW2
 - We know who Hitler was and that 20 million people died because of him
 - If God had said Truman I love but Hitler I hated we would have no problem with it.
 - Why?
 - Because we know who Hitler was.
 - **But God does not say that does He?**

No, He says “so that *the purpose of God according to His choice would stand*, not because of works but because of Him who calls,”

- God is sovereign and free to choose as He wills.
 - ***This is the point that Paul is making through the power of the Holy Spirit.***

¹² it was said to her, “The older shall serve the younger.”

- It came about just as God said it would.
- Jacob was clearly chosen by God and his name was changed to Israel.
- Esau rebelled and became a nation of rebellious people known as the Edomites.

(Side note)

- Eventually the Israelites would become rebellious as well.
- The scripture tells us that **this was to our benefit** so that we would be adopted into the family of God.
 - More on this later.

This verse is why most Pastors do not teach Romans 9.

- It is a difficult text if you do not have a sovereign view of God.
 - If you believe and teach that “you found God and not God saved you”
- **Or if you believe that God is somehow unfair.**
 - To believe those things you must first place yourself as judge over God.
 - You must believe that God cannot be a just God if He hates anyone.
 - Yet you do not struggle with Him hating Satan.
 - Or sending people to Hell

Let's keep this in mind as we move forward:

Philippians 2:12-13

¹² So then, my beloved, just as you have always obeyed, not as in my presence only, but now much more in my absence, **work out your salvation with fear and trembling;** ¹³ for it is God who is at work in you, both to will and to work for *His* good pleasure.

- The working out of your salvation comes with fear and trembling because you suddenly learn that it is He that rescued you and not that you found Him.

Back to Romans 9

Romans 9:13

¹³ Just as it is written, “Jacob I loved, but Esau I hated.”

Where is that written?

- **What is the context of that scripture?**

Malachi 1:2-5

² “I have loved you,” says the Lord. But you say, “How have You loved us?” “Was Esau not Jacob’s brother?” declares the Lord. “Yet I have loved Jacob; ³ but I have hated Esau, and I have made his mountains a desolation and given his inheritance to the jackals of the wilderness.” ⁴ Though Edom says, “We have been beaten down, but we will return and build up the ruins”; this is what the Lord of armies says: “They may build, but I will tear down; and people will call them the territory of wickedness, and the people with whom the Lord is indignant forever.” ⁵ And your eyes will see this, and you will say, “The Lord be exalted beyond the border of Israel!”

- So, the context in which it was said was in the form of a question concerning God’s love for His chosen people.

² “I have loved you,” says the Lord. But you say, “How have You loved us?”

- God then expresses His love for His people by reminding them that He chose them and did not choose Esau.
 - Like a groom choosing His bride, God chose Israel for no other reason than He wanted to put on display His sovereign grace, mercy, and glory.

What should we understand from that portion of scripture?

- Without God's sovereign grace and mercy on our life **we would be as wicked as Esau's offspring.**
- **We would be God's enemies.**
 - The crazy thing about this whole situation is that Jacob (in my opinion) is the least likable of the two boys.
 - He is a mama's boy
 - He likes to lie around the house.
 - He sounds lazy to me
 - Esau on the other hand is a man's – man.
 - He is a hunter
 - He's wild and tough
 - He likes to hunt
 - And he is popular with the ladies.
 - Jacob is a known liar.
 - In fact, his name will be defined as deceiver
 - Like Satan!!!

Now with this all-in mind, what is the defining difference in these two boys lives?

- It is God's sovereign choice.
 - A choice that He made before they were born, before either made any good or bad choices.
 - A decision that God made without any outside influence.
 - **Why is this so important to God that we know and understand?**

John Piper

God's purpose is to be **known and enjoyed and praised** as infinitely glorious in his free and sovereign grace.

And this purpose is **according to election** — it is an electing purpose — because if God did not elect unconditionally, **he would not be free, he would not be sovereign, and he would not be glorious.**

- **Not free**, because then men would determine their own election, not God. He would be bound (not free) to conform to their own self-determination.
- **Not sovereign**, because instead of doing successfully what he wants most, he would be thwarted again and again by self-determining man.
- **Not glorious**, because God's absolute freedom and sovereignty are the essence of the glory of his grace.

It is so important that we understand this!

- **Okay Pastor but what role does our faith play in all of this?**

Faith is a condition of justification, **but it is not a condition of election.**

- Election is unconditional.
- But justification is conditional.
- Before we can be justified, we must believe on Jesus Christ.
- But before we can believe on Jesus Christ we must be chosen and called.

- God does not choose us because we will believe.
- He chooses us **so that we will believe.**

I don't know pastor.

- **I have never been taught this before.**
 - Look I get it.
 - Don't take my word for it.
 - What does the Bible say?

Ephesians 1:4-6

*⁴just as He chose us in Him **before the foundation of the world,** that we would be holy and blameless before Him in love, ⁵**by predestining us to adoption** as sons through Jesus Christ to Himself, **according to the good pleasure of His will,** ⁶to the praise of the glory of His grace, which He graciously bestowed on us in the Beloved.*

Look you should not leave here today sad because God doesn't choose everyone.

- **You should be blown away that He chose you!**
 - That He loves you, all of you, with all of your messed up ways.

You should leave here knowing that verses like Isaiah 49:16 are yours to claim:

Keep this in mind as you read it,

- It was written before crucifixion was invented
- It was written before you were born
- It was written with you in mind

Isaiah 49:16

***¹⁶ I have written your name on the palms of my hands.
Your walls are never out of my sight.***