

# **"Divine Election Questioned"**

**Romans 9:14-23**

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**14 What shall we say then? Is there any unrighteousness with God? May it never be!**

## **Romans 9:14-23**

**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.”**

## Romans 9:14-23

**<sup>16</sup> So then it *does not depend* on the one who wills or the one who runs, but on God who has mercy.**

## **Romans 9:14-23**

**<sup>17</sup> For the Scripture says to Pharaoh,  
“FOR THIS VERY PURPOSE I RAISED  
YOU UP, IN ORDER TO DEMONSTRATE  
MY POWER IN YOU, AND IN ORDER  
THAT MY NAME MIGHT BE  
PROCLAIMED THROUGHOUT  
THE WHOLE EARTH.”**

# **Romans 9:14-23**

**18 So then He has mercy on whom He desires, and He hardens whom He desires.**

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**19 You will say to me then, “Why does He still find fault? For who resists His will?”**

# Romans 9:14-23

**20 On the contrary, who are you, O man, who answers back to God? WILL THE THING MOLDED SAY TO THE MOLDER, “WHY DID YOU MAKE ME LIKE THIS”?**

## **Romans 9:14-23**

**21 Or does not the potter have authority over the clay, to make from the same lump one vessel for honorable use and another for dishonorable use?**

## **Romans 9:14-23**

**<sup>22</sup> And what if God, wanting to demonstrate His wrath and to make His power known, endured with much patience vessels of wrath having been prepared for destruction,**

## **Romans 9:14-23**

**<sup>23</sup> and in order that He might make known the riches of His glory upon vessels of mercy, which He prepared beforehand for glory—**

# Two Questions:

## 1) Is God unjust?

- Why does God save some, and not others? That's not fair!
- Romans 9:14-18

# Two Questions:

## 2) Why does God still find fault?

- Why is it that someone who is not elect is condemned to hell even though they could have never been saved?
- Romans 9:19-23

# **God's Decree of Unconditional Election (Doctrines of Grace)**

- “The Reformed view of election, known as unconditional election, means that God does not foresee an action or condition on our part that induces Him to save us.”**

# **God's Decree of Unconditional Election (Doctrines of Grace)**

- **“Rather, election rests on God’s sovereign decision to save whomever He is pleased to save.”**

**(R.C. Sproul)**

# **The Doctrine of Reprobation**

- **"Reprobation is God's eternal decree whereby He foreordained that (1) certain persons would be excluded from the number of those saved by grace..."**

# **The Doctrine of Reprobation**

- ...and that (2) those same persons would instead experience His just wrath.  
(Richard Blaylock)**

# **To Be Clear:**

- **I hold to the Doctrines of Grace**
  - Total Depravity
  - Unconditional Election
  - Limited Atonement
  - Irresistible Grace
  - Perseverance of the Saints
- **I also hold to the Doctrine of Reprobation**

# **I hold to the Doctrine of Reprobation because:**

- 1. Reprobation is logically required by the doctrine of unconditional election
- 2. Reprobation is contained within the Sovereignty of God
- 3. Reprobation is taught in Scripture

## **John 12:37-40**

**<sup>37</sup> But though He had done so many signs before them, they *still* were not believing in Him,**

## **John 12:37-40**

**38 so that the word of Isaiah the prophet might be fulfilled, which he spoke: “LORD, WHO HAS BELIEVED OUR REPORT? AND TO WHOM HAS THE ARM OF THE LORD BEEN REVEALED?”**

# **John 12:37-40**

**39 For this reason they could not believe, for Isaiah said again,**

# **John 12:37-40**

**40 “HE HAS BLINDED THEIR EYES  
AND HE HARDENED THEIR HEART,  
LEST THEY SEE WITH THEIR EYES  
AND UNDERSTAND WITH THEIR  
HEART, AND RETURN AND I HEAL  
THEM.”**

**These doctrines are a blessing!!**

**1. The doctrines of unconditional election and reprobation promote the fear of the Lord.**

# **Romans 11:33-36**

**33 Oh, the depth of the riches  
and wisdom and knowledge of  
God! How unsearchable are His  
judgments and unfathomable His  
ways!**

# Romans 11:33-36

**<sup>34</sup> For WHO HAS KNOWN THE MIND  
OF THE LORD, OR WHO BECAME  
HIS COUNSELOR?**

# Romans 11:33-36

**35 Or WHO HAS FIRST GIVEN TO HIM THAT IT MIGHT BE REPAID TO HIM?**

## **Romans 11:33-36**

**<sup>36</sup> For from Him and through Him and to Him are all things. To Him *be* the glory forever. Amen.**

These doctrines are a blessing!!

- **2. The doctrines of unconditional election and reprobation require a radical commitment to the Word of God!**

# **I. Opposing Question #1:**

- If God chooses some to be saved, and does not choose others to be saved, but leaves them in their condemnation, how is that fair?  
Romans 9:14-18**

# **Romans 9:14-23**

**14 What shall we say then? Is there any unrighteousness with God? May it never be!**

**A. There is no "unrighteousness" in God Romans 9:14a**

- **1. "unrighteousness", 'adikia', "injustice, not being right, violate law"**

**While God chooses to save some unconditionally, the penalty for their sins is not simply ignored, but paid for by Christ on the cross!!**

**A. There is no "unrighteousness" in God Romans 9:14a**

- 2. God is not unjust to choose some to salvation (election) and pass by others so as to leave them in a state of condemnation (reprobation)**

**A. There is no "unrighteousness" in God  
Romans 9:14a**

- **3. All men and women deserve  
God's judgment**
- **Romans 3:23; 5:12**

## **Romans 3:23**

**23 for all have sinned and  
fall short of the glory of  
God,**

## **Romans 5:12**

**12 Therefore, just as through one man sin entered into the world, and death through sin, and so death spread to all men, because all sinned—**

# **God's Attributes are Perfect in Character and Righteousness**

**Deuteronomy 32:3, 4, <sup>3</sup> For I proclaim the name of Yahweh; Ascribe greatness to our God!**

**<sup>4</sup> The Rock! His work is perfect, For all His ways are just; A God of faithfulness and without injustice, Righteous and upright is He.**

# **Romans 9:14-23**

**14 What shall we say then? Is there any unrighteousness with God? May it never be!**

**B. God's electing love is not unjust, all His attributes are perfect Romans 9:14b**

- 1. God's justice condemns the sinner, but God's mercy saves the sinner**

**B. God's electing love is not unjust, all His attributes are perfect Romans 9:14b**

- 2. To hold to anything less than the perfections of God...  
May it never be!**

# God's Perfect Justice

- **"God is not subject to human definitions of fairness; rather, whatever God wills is inherently just."**

# **Deuteronomy 32:3,4**

**<sup>3</sup> For I proclaim the name of Yahweh;  
Ascribe greatness to our God!**

**<sup>4</sup> The Rock! His work is perfect,  
For all His ways are just;  
A God of faithfulness and without  
injustice,  
Righteous and upright is He.**

# Romans 9:14-23

**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.”**

**C. Salvation from God is rooted in His  
grace and mercy Romans 9:15**

- **1. God has mercy on  
anyone He wants**

## **Exodus 32:13,14**

**<sup>13</sup> Remember Abraham, Isaac, and Israel, Your servants to whom You swore by Yourself, and You said to them, ‘I will multiply your seed as the stars of the heavens, and all this land of which I have spoken I will give to your seed, and they shall inherit *it* forever.’”**

## **Exodus 32:13,14**

**<sup>14</sup> So Yahweh relented concerning the harm which He said He would do to His people.**

## **Exodus 32:33-35**

**33 And Yahweh said to Moses,  
“Whoever has sinned against Me, I  
will blot him out of My book.**

## **Exodus 32:33-35**

**<sup>34</sup> But now go, guide the people where I told you. Behold, My angel shall go before you; nevertheless in the day when I punish, I will punish them for their sin.”**

## **Exodus 32:33-35**

**<sup>35</sup> Then Yahweh smote the people because of what they did with the calf which Aaron had made.**

# A hint of election and reprobation?

- Notice, even when God brings mercy and forgiveness, God in His perfect justice brings also punishment for sin.
- Is there a parallel where in Christ where there is forgiveness, but there is also punishment for sin, hence the reprobate is sent to hell.

**"mercy"**

**"mercy", 'eleeo', "to feel sympathy which results in action, to see someone in dire need, have pity and help meet the need."**

**"compassion"**

• **"compassion", 'oikteiro',  
"love springing from  
covenant"**

## **II Kings 13:23**

**<sup>23</sup> But Yahweh was gracious to them and had compassion on them and turned to them because of His covenant with Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob, and would not bring them to ruin or cast them from His presence until now.**

# **Dr. Charles Hodge:**

**“In the sight of an infinitely good and merciful God it was necessary that some of the rebellious race of man should suffer the penalty of the law which all have broken. It is God’s prerogative to determine who shall be vessels of mercy, and who shall be left to the just recompense of their sins.”**

**C. Salvation from God is rooted in His  
grace and mercy Romans 9:15**

- **2. The mercy of God to  
Israel by the intercession of  
Moses**
- **Exodus 33:1-17**

## **Exodus 33:13-15**

**13 So now, I pray You, if I have found favor in Your sight, let me know Your ways that I may know You, so that I may find favor in Your sight. See also, that this nation is Your people.”**

## Exodus 33:13-15

**<sup>14</sup> And He said, “My presence shall go *with you*, and I will give you rest.”**

## **Exodus 33:13-15**

**15 Then he said to Him, “If Your presence does not go *with us*, do not lead us up from here.**

**C. Salvation from God is rooted in His  
grace and mercy Romans 9:15**

- **3. God's glory is seen in His  
"goodness"**
- **Exodus 33:18,19; 34:6,7**

# **Exodus 33:18,19**

**18 Then Moses said, “I pray You,  
show me Your glory!”**

# **Exodus 33:18,19**

**<sup>19</sup> And He said, “I Myself will make all My goodness pass before you, and I will proclaim the name of Yahweh before you; and I will be gracious to whom I will be gracious, and I will show compassion on whom I will show compassion.”**

## **Exodus 34:6,7**

**<sup>6</sup> Then Yahweh passed by in front of him and called out, “Yahweh, Yahweh God, compassionate and gracious, slow to anger, and abounding in lovingkindness and truth;**

# Exodus 34:6,7

**<sup>7</sup> who keeps lovingkindness for thousands, who forgives iniquity, transgression, and sin; yet He will by no means leave *the guilty unpunished*, visiting the iniquity of fathers on the children and on the grandchildren to the third and fourth generations.”**

## Romans 9:14-23

**<sup>16</sup> So then it *does not depend* on the one who wills or the one who runs, but on God who has mercy.**

**D. Salvation does not depend on man's will, nor man's merit, but on the grace gifted to the elect person Romans 9:16**

- **1. "... the one who wills", 'thelontos', "to be determined"**

**D. Salvation does not depend on man's will, nor man's merit, but on the grace gifted to the elect person Romans 9:16**

- 2. "... the one who runs", 'trecho', here understood as, "effort to attain something with all one's effort"**

**D. Salvation does not depend on man's will, nor man's merit, but on the grace gifted to the elect person Romans 9:16**

- 3. When man complains that God is not fair, Paul says salvation depends on our God who has "mercy", 'eleeo', "sympathy that results in action"**

## **Titus 3:4,5**

**<sup>4</sup> But when the kindness and affection of God our Savior appeared,**

## **Titus 3:4,5**

**<sup>5</sup> He saved us, not by works which we did in righteousness, but according to His mercy, through the washing of regeneration and renewing by the Holy Spirit,**

# **I Peter 1:3**

**<sup>3</sup> Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who according to His great mercy has caused us to be born again to a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead.**

## **Ephesians 2:4-10**

**<sup>4</sup> But God, being rich in mercy because of His great love with which He loved us,**

## **Ephesians 2:4-10**

**<sup>5</sup> even when we were dead in our transgressions, made us alive together with Christ—  
by grace you have been saved—**

## **Ephesians 2:4-10**

**⁶ and raised us up with Him,  
and seated us with Him in the  
heavenly *places* in Christ  
Jesus,**

# **Ephesians 2:4-10**

**<sup>7</sup> so that in the ages to come He might show the surpassing riches of His grace in kindness toward us in Christ Jesus.**

# Ephesians 2:4-10

**8 For by grace you have been saved through faith, and this not of yourselves, *it is* the gift of God;**

# **Ephesians 2:4-10**

**<sup>9</sup> not of works, so that no one  
may boast.**

# **Ephesians 2:4-10**

**10 For we are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand so that we would walk in them.**

# **Saved by GRACE!!!**

- **JUSTICE-** Getting what we deserve
- **MERCY-** Not getting what we deserve
- **GRACE-** Getting what we **DON'T** deserve

## **Romans 9:14-23**

**<sup>17</sup> For the Scripture says to Pharaoh,  
“FOR THIS VERY PURPOSE I RAISED  
YOU UP, IN ORDER TO DEMONSTRATE  
MY POWER IN YOU, AND IN ORDER  
THAT MY NAME MIGHT BE  
PROCLAIMED THROUGHOUT  
THE WHOLE EARTH.”**

**E. Pharaoh raised up to demonstrate God's power by embarrassing the false gods of Egypt and freeing captive Israel from slavery in Egypt Romans 9:17a**

- 1. God "raised up"  
Pharaoh, 'exegeiro', "bring to position of prominence"**

**E. Pharaoh raised up to demonstrate God's power by embarrassing the false gods of Egypt and freeing captive Israel from slavery in Egypt Romans 9:17a**

- 2. "demonstrate", 'endeiknumi', "put on display, give visible proof"**

**E. Pharaoh raised up to demonstrate God's power by embarrassing the false gods of Egypt and freeing captive Israel from slavery in Egypt Romans 9:17a**

**•3. God's power shown in the ten plagues and the parting of the Red Sea**

**E. Pharaoh raised up to demonstrate God's power by embarrassing the false gods of Egypt and freeing captive Israel from slavery in Egypt Romans 9:17a**

- 4. False gods humiliated in the ten plagues, Exodus Chapters 7 through 12**

## **Ten Plagues humiliated many of the false gods of Egypt:**

- **Plague #1, Water to Blood:** Hapi (Nile god), Khnum (guardian of the Nile), and Osiris (whose bloodstream was the Nile) were humiliated when the Nile river became a source of death.

**Ten Plagues humiliated many  
of the false gods of Egypt:**

- **Plague #2, Frogs:** Heqet (goddess of fertility and birth) depicted with a frog head, mocked as the frogs became disgusting, hated

**Ten Plagues humiliated many  
of the false gods of Egypt:**

- **Plague #3, Gnats/Lice:** Geb (earth god) was not able to overpower God who turned the dust into the destructive gnats and lice

**Ten Plagues humiliated many  
of the false gods of Egypt:**

- **Plague #4, Flies:** Khepri (god of creation/rebirth) and Horus (sky god) were powerless to stop the plague of flies.

**Ten Plagues humiliated many  
of the false gods of Egypt:**

- **Plague #5, Livestock**  
**Death:** Hathor (cow-headed goddess of love/protection) and Apis (bull god) could not stop the true God from killing livestock.

## **Ten Plagues humiliated many of the false gods of Egypt:**

- **Plague #6, Boils:** Isis (healing goddess), Sekhmet (goddess of epidemics), and Thoth (medical knowledge) were supposed to protect the Egyptians, but failed.

**Ten Plagues humiliated many  
of the false gods of Egypt:**

- **Plague #7, Hail:** Nut (sky goddess), Osiris (crop fertility), and Set (god of storms) were not able to stop the fall of the destructive hail on Egypt.

**Ten Plagues humiliated many  
of the false gods of Egypt:**

- **Plague #8, Locusts:** Min (harvest protector) was not able to save the crops from the destruction of the plague of locusts.

**Ten Plagues humiliated many  
of the false gods of Egypt:**

- **Plague #9, Darkness:** Ra (sun god), Horus (sky god), and Thoth (moon god) were shown to be powerless to God's work in sending three days of darkness.

**Ten Plagues humiliated many  
of the false gods of Egypt:**

- **Plague #10, Firstborn**

**Death:** Pharaoh, supposedly a living god, along with Isis and Osiris could not protect his own firstborn son.

## **Romans 9:14-23**

**<sup>17</sup> For the Scripture says to Pharaoh,  
“FOR THIS VERY PURPOSE I RAISED  
YOU UP, IN ORDER TO DEMONSTRATE  
MY POWER IN YOU, AND IN ORDER  
THAT MY NAME MIGHT BE  
PROCLAIMED THROUGHOUT  
THE WHOLE EARTH.”**

**F. Pharaoh was raised up in order that His name would be proclaimed throughout the whole earth Romans 9:17b**

- **1. "proclaimed", 'diaggello', "to declare everywhere, plainly, fully"**

**F. Pharaoh was raised up in order that His name would be proclaimed throughout the whole earth Romans 9:17b**

- 2. The church must get the Gospel right, explain it without doctrinally inaccurate, worldly misrepresentations that rob God of His glory**

## **Romans 9:14-23**

**18 So then He has mercy on whom He desires, and He hardens whom He desires.**

**G. God brings mercy to the elect,  
hardens the non-elect, and retains  
His perfect righteousness, holiness,  
and justice in doing so  
Romans 9:18**

- **Even before Moses meets with Pharaoh, God tells Moses that He is going to harden Pharaoh's heart so that he will not let Israel go**

# Exodus 4:21

**<sup>21</sup> And Yahweh said to Moses, “When you go to return to Egypt, see *to it* that all the miraculous wonders which I have put in your hand, that you do them before Pharaoh; but as for Me, I will harden his heart with strength so that he will not let the people go.**

- **Moses clearly states that God hardened Pharaoh's heart in order to demonstrate God's glory and power**

## **Exodus 7:3-5**

**<sup>3</sup> But I will harden Pharaoh's heart with stiffness that I may multiply My signs and My wonders in the land of Egypt.**

## **Exodus 7:3-5**

**<sup>4</sup> But Pharaoh will not listen to you. And I will set My hand upon Egypt and bring out My hosts, My people the sons of Israel, from the land of Egypt by great judgments.**

## **Exodus 7:3-5**

**<sup>5</sup> Then the Egyptians shall know that I am Yahweh, when I stretch out My hand against Egypt and bring out the sons of Israel from their midst.”**

# **Exodus 10:1**

**<sup>1</sup> Then Yahweh said to Moses,  
“Come to Pharaoh, for I  
have hardened his heart and the  
heart of his servants with firmness,  
that I may set these signs of  
Mine among them,**

## **Exodus 11:9**

**<sup>9</sup> Then Yahweh said to Moses,  
“Pharaoh will not listen to you,  
so that My miraculous wonders  
will be multiplied in the land of  
Egypt.”**

## **Exodus 14:4**

**<sup>4</sup> Thus I will harden Pharaoh's heart with strength, and he will pursue them; and I will be glorified through Pharaoh and all his army, so that the Egyptians will know that I am Yahweh." And they did so.**

**God hardened Pharaoh's heart, but  
Pharaoh also hardened his own heart  
Exodus 8:32**

**32 Then Pharaoh hardened his  
heart with firmness this time  
also, and he did not let the  
people go.**

# Two Questions:

## 1) Is God unjust?

- Why does God save some, and not others? That's not fair!
- Romans 9:14-18

# Two Questions:

## 2) Why does God still find fault?

- Why is it that someone who is not elect is condemned to hell even though they could have never been saved?
- Romans 9:19-23

## **II. Opposing Question #2:**

- If God chooses sinners to salvation (the elect), how is it fair to eternally punish those whom He has not chosen (the non-elect) since they never had the chance to be saved, since no one can oppose His will?  
Romans 9:19-23**

# **Romans 9:14-23**

**19 You will say to me then, “Why does He still find fault? For who resists His will?”**

**A. Undeniable facts and a  
conclusion Romans 9:19**

- **1. God chooses some to  
salvation, passes by and  
does not save the non-elect  
Ephesians 1:3-14**

**A. Undeniable facts and a  
conclusion Romans 9:19**

- **2. "resists", 'anthistemi',  
stand against one's will,  
man is not able, God will  
save only those He has  
chosen**

# Romans 9:14-23

**20 On the contrary, who are you, O man, who answers back to God? WILL THE THING MOLDED SAY TO THE MOLDER, “WHY DID YOU MAKE ME LIKE THIS”?**

## **Romans 9:14-23**

**21 Or does not the potter have authority over the clay, to make from the same lump one vessel for honorable use and another for dishonorable use?**

**B. Paul's response to the opposition:  
God is the Potter, we are the clay,  
therefore God has authority over the  
clay Romans 9:20,21**

- 1. God is "The Potter", all men and women ever created are "the clay"**

# Isaiah 29:16

**<sup>16</sup> You turn *things* around!  
Shall the potter be considered as equal  
with the clay,  
That what is made would say to its  
maker, “He did not make me”;  
Or what is formed say to him who  
formed it, “He has no understanding”?**

# Isaiah 45:9

**9 “Woe to *the one* who contends with his Maker— An earthenware vessel among the vessels of earth! Will the clay say to the potter, ‘What are you doing?’ Or the thing you are making *say*, ‘He has no hands’?**

**B. Paul's response to the opposition:  
God is the Potter, we are the clay,  
therefore God has authority over the  
clay Romans 9:20,21**

- 2. God can make a vessel  
for honorable use or for  
dishonorable use**

**Man's pride and arrogance rebuked!!  
Jeremiah 18:4-6**

**6 “Can I not, O house of Israel,  
deal with you as this potter *does*?”  
declares Yahweh. “Behold, like  
the clay in the potter’s hand, so are  
you in My hand, O house of Israel.**

## **Romans 9:14-23**

**<sup>22</sup> And what if God, wanting to demonstrate His wrath and to make His power known, endured with much patience vessels of wrath having been prepared for destruction,**

## **Romans 9:14-23**

**<sup>23</sup> and in order that He might make known the riches of His glory upon vessels of mercy, which He prepared beforehand for glory—**

**C. God has authority to endure  
evil to show His glory  
Romans 9:22,23**

- 1. God endures the vessel of wrath  
that has been prepared for  
destruction (passive voice) by  
their own sinful rebellion  
Matthew 25:41`**

# **Matthew 25:41**

**41 “Then He will also say to those on His left, ‘Depart from Me, accursed ones, into the eternal fire which has been prepared for the devil and his angels;**

**C. God has authority to endure  
evil to show His glory  
Romans 9:22,23**

- 2. God makes known the  
riches of His glory upon  
vessels of mercy**

## **II Thessalonians 2:13,14**

**13 But we should always give thanks to God for you, brothers beloved by the Lord, because God has chosen you as the first fruits for salvation through sanctification by the Spirit and faith in the truth.**

## **II Thessalonians 2:13,14**

**<sup>14</sup> It was for this He called you through our gospel, that you may obtain the glory of our Lord Jesus Christ.**





