

"Divine Election Questioned"

Romans 9:14-23

Romans 9:14-23

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

¹⁶ 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

**¹⁷ 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.

Romans 9:14-23

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

²² 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

²³ 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

³⁷ 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

³⁴ 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

³⁶ 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

¹⁶ 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

⁴ But when the kindness and affection of God our Savior appeared,

Titus 3:4,5

⁵ 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

³ 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

⁴ But God, being rich in mercy because of His great love with which He loved us,

Ephesians 2:4-10

**⁵ 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

⁷ 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

**9 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

**¹⁷ 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
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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

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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

²¹ 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

³ 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

⁴ 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

⁵ 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

**¹ 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

**⁹ 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

⁴ 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

**16 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

²² 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

²³ 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

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

