

The Mystery & Tension of a Sovereign God

August 27, 2023

Text: Romans 9:1-13

Introduction:

BIG IDEA: A right understanding of God leads to _____, but faulty beliefs lead to godless chaos.

1. A personal illustration: God changed Paul's thinking about "the _____" (1-5)

- "Christ" comes from the Greek word Christos, meaning "anointed one" or "chosen one."
- Paul oversaw the killing of Stephen as he proclaimed Jesus to be the Christ (Romans 6:8-8:3).
- Paul became convinced that unbelief in Jesus the Christ led to a "cutting off" from God's promised salvation.
- Paul proposes a hypothetical situation.
- Paul points out the many benefits of Jewish people.

2. 1st Question: If many Jews did not love Jesus, did God's Word _____? (6-13).

- God's Word has not and will never fail.
- Abraham has three kinds of offspring.
 - Physical (biological) descendants
 - Physical and spiritual descendants—Jews who share a mutual faith in the God of Abraham, Jesus Christ
 - Spiritual descendants—Gentiles (non-Jews) who share a mutual faith in the God of Abraham, Jesus Christ
- Issacs's two sons
 - _____ a pretty rough past but embraced God's promises.
 - _____ traded his stake in God's promise for a bowl of soup.
 - Esau represents those Jews who inwardly trade obedience to God's promise for indulging the lusts of their flesh.
- Why is it some of Abraham's descendants love God (are true Israel), and others do not. Paul's answer in Romans 9:11-13 is not hard to miss, it's just difficult truth to accept.

Truth into Action

- Paul had his heart changed by God. **Let him change yours!**
- Paul experienced anguish over lost people. **Ask God to break your heart for the lost!**

Connect Card: How do you feel the mystery and tension of a sovereign God? How may we help & pray for you?



Please understand we want to help you know Jesus personally and journey with you in taking fresh steps of obedience daily. We would love to pray with you and for you. Join us at the end of the service for prayer or send us your request on the Connect Card and we will lift them up throughout the week.

Table Talk

Warm Up: Share a time when someone broke a promise to you and then a time when someone kept a promise.

1. 1-5 How does the emotional nature of Paul's language move and/or challenge you?
2. Paul's heart for lost people is on display in Romans 9:1-5. Does his heart reflect your heart?
3. V.6 Why does it matter whether God's promises have failed?
4. From this admittedly complex section of Scripture, we get a glimpse into the Father Heart of God. How is it encouraging to know that God's character is faithful, consistent, and dependable?
5. As you look back at how you became a Christian, how do you see that God was pursuing you?

Closing prayer: God help me to see lost people like you do and to live NOT ASHAMED OF THE GOSPEL.