

Chosen People 5

Chosen For What?

Romans 10:14-21

Memory Verses: Romans 10:14

MANUSCRIPT

Introduction (Me, We, & the Struggle)

We are in a series called Chosen People, walking through one of the most challenging and misunderstood sections of the entire Bible; Romans 9-11. We've titled it Chosen People because that is exactly what Paul is talking about. Who are God's chosen people and how does God choose them? In choosing, is he fair and just? What about election, predestination, Calvinism, and Arminianism? What about our Free Will? And in looking at all of this... we landed exactly where Paul lands. **We are chosen but free.... therefore, everyone who calls is saved, and everyone who is saved is called!** We can't reconcile all of it but we have faith that God if God has said it, we can rest in it, Amen?

Well that settles it right? The debate is finished, and all of these greater questions are answered! I wish it were that simple. But it does bring us to a more important matter, what now? If we are chosen, what are we chosen for?

I remember the anxiety of waiting to be picked for a team. There were two captains and they would take turns picking people for their team and you would just stand there waiting to be picked up. But once you were finally chosen... you didn't go sit on the bench did you? No, once you were picked you were picked to contribute... you were picked to play! The point is simple, no one is chosen simply for the privilege of being chosen. You're chosen because there's a purpose to fulfill.

God never chooses people simply to admire their salvation. He chooses people to advance His mission. That's why Paul immediately moves from election to evangelism; from doctrine to duty; from being chosen to being sent. If we've been chosen by God, we've been chosen for something! And we see that in our passage today. Let's read our passage together; **Romans 10:14-21**. The main point this morning is this... **God doesn't simply choose us to save us; He chooses us to send us**. Today we are going to discover three purposes for which God chooses His people.

Teaching (Expand on the Problem, God)

The first purpose we are to discover is this... **Chosen People Are Chosen To Go**. Look with me at **Romans 10:14-15** again. I want you to notice something right off the bat. If God, before the foundations of the world, arbitrarily picked who would be saved and who would not be

saved... and free will played no part... and there was nothing anyone could do about it... then why would God need us to be a part of the process? Why would God want us to come to the conclusion that we must be sent to preach to the lost... if it didn't matter one way or the other? Well, clearly it matters doesn't it! It matters a great deal, in fact! God wants us to be a part of the process of choosing the elect.

And this is where we see one of the greatest tragedies of extreme Calvinist theology. **Though many who preach extreme Calvinism claim that we must preach because it is what God wants us to do... the adherents of extreme Calvinism know in their hearts and heads, that they do not need to partake in the ministry because their ministry is pointless. Those who believe that God has pre-established the elect and the damned... have no motivation to evangelize the lost! In this case, extreme calvinism leads to an apathetic christianity. Rather than resisting the exist, extreme Calvinism embraces the exist.**

No, Instead God wants us to get involved. God has chosen us to get off our religious butts and be active in our faith. We are called to Go. Look at the chain that Paul creates... People need to call on the Lord to be saved. But why would they call on someone they don't, by their own free will, believe in. And they can't believe on someone they haven't even heard about. So, they need someone to tell them. They need someone sent to them. Someone has to go and tell them about Jesus! And this is so awesome. Because after weeks of being told that God has a sovereign will that cannot be thwarted and he desires to see all man saved... He chooses us to be part of the plan. He could literally write the gospel across the sky or send angels, or speak audibly from heaven and instead he sends us! He sends ordinary people like you and me.

Matthew 28:19-20 tells us this. God is sending his chosen into the world to be a part of his plan to choose more and more and more. **Imagine for a moment that you discovered the cure for every form of cancer. You wouldn't lock it in a safe. You wouldn't frame it on your wall to sit and admire. No, you would spend the rest of your life getting it to as many people as you possibly could! You would GO! Church, we have the cure to save all mankind from eternal damnation... we must take it and Go to them! The gospel was never meant to stop with you! You are a messenger... you are a conduit by which the Gospel moves from one to another! You can't let it stop with you... You are chosen to Go! God doesn't simply choose us to save us; He chooses us to send us.**

The second purpose we are to discover is this... **Chosen People Are Chosen To Preach**. Look with me at **Romans 10:16-17** again. People believe because they hear the Word of God! And in order for people to hear the Word of God... it must be spoken. And speaking the word of God is called what? Preaching!

There's too much to say here so I will make a few quick statements that I don't have time to fill in the blanks. First, preaching is not reserved for Pastors or Elders. Any believer who has the power of the Holy Spirit in their soul has the ability to preach! Anyone who can pick up a Bible, read a passage, and adequately explain that passage to another person...can preach! In fact, you are called to preach. You are called to take the words of God from the Word of God and tell it to those who have not heard it! This means, you can preach at school or the break room or across the room. You can preach in the supermarket or in the driveway. Man, woman, child, you are called to preach!

Second, people can know the words of God from the Word of God and that is powerful and sometimes the preferred method! Everyone should dedicate their lives to studying the Bible for themselves. But just because the Bible exists and you may have one to hand to someone... doesn't make you are exempt from preaching! Third, just because you are called to preach, doesn't mean you are called to preach in front of the church body in a church setting! I think way more people can preach up here than do. People in this church even. But the Bible also makes it clear that when it comes to the gathering, only those who the Elders of the church authorize to speak should speak.

Regardless, it is clear that we don't tell the world about Jesus by simply being good people. We tell the world about Jesus with our words. We must preach. That means we must be bold and unashamed.

Romans 1:16 tell us this. Notice, the power isn't in the speaker... the power is in the message. Don't worry if you can't speak well or if you are nervous. The Gospel is powerful enough to speak through you. Listen, **God has never asked you to save anyone. He has simply asked you to tell someone.** Every Sunday I stand here and preach. But I assure you, the most important sermons that will be preached this week should not be here. They should happen around kitchen tables and work tables and coffee shops and across backyard fences. When ordinary Christians tell people about what Jesus has done for them and what Jesus can do for others, that's how the Kingdom advances. We are chosen to preach! **God doesn't simply choose us to save us; He chooses us to send us.**

The third purpose we are to discover is this... **Chosen People Are Chosen To Remain Faithful.** Look with me at **Romans 10:18-21** again. Paul reminds us again that the Chosen people of God, Israel, did not remain faithful. Instead they rejected His Messiah and in that way ultimately rejected Him. The prophets were sent and they obeyed and went. The prophets preached their guts out. Jesus himself came to earth and preached for three years on the kingdom of God. The Israelites heard, they understood, and in the end they rejected the message. Israel did not persevere.

Now contrast that with God. Look at **vs.21**. All day long he holds out his hands to people who will most likely reject him. Paul likewise has not quit on Israel. Like God he also holds out his hands and preaches his guts out to a people who will most likely reject him. God and his preacher, Paul, are still inviting, still calling, still pursuing, still going, still preaching!

Listen church... you are called to remain faithful! Some of you have children who do not believe. Or spouses, or parents. And you've been pursuing them for decades. You have neighbors and friends you've been reaching out to for years. You've shared, prayed, invited, wept. Don't quit, don't give up. You are not in charge of the results... God chooses! You are merely responsible for being faithful. **Success in evangelism isn't measured by decisions – it's measured by faithfulness. God doesn't simply choose us to save us; He chooses us to send us.**

Application

So, let's go back to where we started. What are chosen people for? Not simply to enjoy heaven someday. Not simply to win theological arguments. Not simply to accumulate biblical knowledge. Chosen people are chosen to participate in God's rescue mission. We are called to go, to preach, and to remain faithful and let God handle the results.

Conclusion

Imagine if every person here viewed Monday morning as a mission field. Imagine if every workplace became a mission station. Every neighborhood, classroom, restaurant, family gathering. Imagine if we stopped asking, "why did God choose me?" and started asking, "Who has God sent me to?" Because maybe the answer to someone's prayer, the answer to someone's searching, the answer to someone's eternal destiny is in our hands today. All they are waiting for is for us to go and preach and tell them the truth of Jesus Christ. **God doesn't simply choose us to save us; He chooses us to send us.**