

The Big Idea: The origins of our salvation are not found in ourselves. They are found in a merciful and gracious God.

I. The mystery of divine election

A. Some PASTORAL thoughts

1. I realize the DIFFICULTY of this doctrine...I know it's hard
2. The doctrine of election is not a doctrinal HILL TO DIE ON...

B. Some CONTEXTUAL observations– chapter 9...

1. The ELEPHANT in the room – if the Jews are God's CHOSEN people why are so FEW responding to the gospel?
2. Underneath the solution that Paul puts forward is the doctrine of ELECTION

C. Let's look at the TEXT – it's time for some Q & A vs. 14-18

1. Objection #1 – is there INJUSTICE on God's part? v. 14
  - We've SEEN this before
  - The basic QUESTION is...
2. Three ANSWERS to the objection of injustice
  - God is free to be MERCIFUL to whom he will v. 15
    - Exodus 33:19

- God's FREEDOM is foundational v. 16
  
- God is free to HARDEN whom he will vs. 17
  - Exodus 9:16
  
- God's glory is revealed in both MERCY and JUDGMENT v. 18
  
  
- The CENTER of everything is God and his GLORY

## II. What we take away...

- A. We must be careful to never think that our heart is good enough to judge the goodness of God, or we are wise enough to judge the wisdom of God – we humble ourselves before a sovereign God.