

GOD'S PURPOSE IN HISTORY Romans 9-11  
"God's Righteousness in Relation to Israel"

Problem in theodicy: What happened to God's ELECT (Chosen) People??  
Key thesis of 9-11: Chapter 11: 21-22.

A simple, yet theologically sound, explanation of ELECTION.  
THE ELECT ONE is Christ Jesus. All in Him are thus "elect."  
For every human, God "votes" YES.  
" " " Satan "votes" NO.

I cast the deciding vote for my salvation: Yes or No.

- I. ISRAEL, GOD'S CHOSEN, REJECTED HIS SON 9:1-5
  - A. Paul's almost incredible anguish 1-3
    - 1. Witness of his conscience
    - 2. He could wish himself accursed (anathema) if that would cause Israel to be saved. Cf. Moses Ex. 32:32
  - B. Seven gifts God gave to Israel 4,5
    - 1.
    - 2.
    - 3.
    - 4.
    - 5.

II. LIGHT ON THE PROBLEM 9:6-29

A. Light of Biblical History 6-13  
TWO examples of ELECTION (Sovereign)  
by GRACE not LAW

- 1. Choice of ISAAC -- not ISHMAEL 6-9
  - Promise vs. "natural birth" v. 8
  - Faith vs. Works
  - Grace vs. Law (law of the first born)

Cf. GAL. 4:22-31

\*This choice was for service not salvation.  
See Gen. 17:19-21

- 2. Choice of JACOB -- not ESAU 10-13
    - Grace vs. LAW (of the firstborn)
    - Election of faith vs. Works
    - a. Jacob chosen for service before birth  
so it could not possibly be because of his works.
    - b. The salvation of J. and E. is not the issue.
      - 1. Esau "hated" only in the sense of Luke 14:26.  
"Miseo" means "unchosen" for "first place."  
When we have to choose between Jesus and any other--we have to hate the other.
      - 2. Esau chose to sell the birthright--then wanted it back, too late Heb. 12:16,17.
      - 3. God did BLESS Esau Gen. 27:39,40  
Esau never personally served Jacob; his descendants did (Edom served Israel)
- GOD FOREKNEW CHARACTER, DID NOT FORCE EITHER.

ROMANS; Christian Living, cont'd

III. CALL TO CIVIC RESPONSIBILITY 13:1-7

A. High View of Government

1. Ordained of God 1 Tim. 2:1,2

2. Rulers = "ministers of God"

B. Guidelines

1. Not to be used against God Acts 4:19

2. Two reasons to obey:

a. Fear the "sword" (Gen. 9:6)

Capital punishment is God-ordained

b. Conscience' sake

C. Extent of allegiance vv. 6-7

IV. CALL TO LIVE BY "LAW OF LOVE" 13:8-14

A. LOVE fulfills Law

B. LOVE does no wrong to others 10

C. LOVE overcomes fleshly lusts 11-13

V. CALL TO RESPONSIBILITY IN LOVE 14:1-15:13

A. Two problems in the church (14:1)

1. Undue arguing v.1 not about sinful things but  
about "NEUTRAL": foods, days vv.2-5

2. Unloving judging v.3

a. Pharisaical judging is always wrong Mt. 7:1-5

b. We do have to judge rightly 1 Cor. 2:15; Jn. 7:24

B. Three PRINCIPLES 14:5-15:3

Highest: 3. Glorifying to God 15:3-13

Second: 2. Giving no offense 14:13b-15:3

Lowest: 1. Freedom re: neutral things 14:5-13a

a. Christians disagree re: neutral things 5-8

Def. of "neutral":

ROMANS: CHRISTIAN LIVING, cont'd.

B. Three principles, cont'd

b. Conscience is crucial vv 5,20,22,23; 1 Cor. 8; 10

c. Christ will judge all saints 9-13a

Note re: 14:17. The kingdom of God is now internal (the Church is the present manifestaion); it will be external Rev. 20:1-6, etc.

2. Giving no offense re: neutral things 14:13b-15:3

a. Recognize what is unclean v 14

b. Relinquish "rights" v.15-15:3

Illustrations:

Keep the bro. in Christ at any cost! vv 16-19. Questionable things can be misunderstood (16-18)  
disrupt peace (17,19)  
cause stumbling (20)  
actually result in KATAKRIMA!! vv 22-23.

Note: The conscience is not always in line with God's Word. However, we are to 1) heed it until we know it is not right;  
2) let the Word correct our conscience.

3. Do all to the glory of God 15:3-13; 1 Cor. 10:31

a. Strong are responsible for weak.

Incredible?? b. Even Jesus did not please Himself!!!!

This highest principle will guide us in difficult decisions.

Questions???: