

Romans: A Study on Reformation
Lesson 22 “Doctrine of Election Part 1”

I. Introduction - We are continuing our series on the book of Romans today. Paul wrote this letter from Corinth to the church in Rome to bring reformation to this church in 57 A.D. We are studying verse by verse through the book with our focus being on “Reformation.”

A. Paul wrote this book in 57 A.D. prior to his trip to Jerusalem with the purpose of dealing with some major issues the church in Rome was having between the Jewish and gentile Christians. These issues caused them to divide and not unite.

1. When the church in Rome began it was mostly comprised of Jews who converted to Christianity (very few Gentiles initially). The culture of the church was very much in line with Judaism (keep the law of Moses, focus on circumcision, keep the feast days, etc.)
2. In 49 A.D. the Roman Emperor Claudius banished all the Jews from Rome because of their religious and political disturbances. The Jews were banished until 54 A.D. when Nero became Emperor and said they could return.
3. When the Jewish Christians were banished, the only Christians left were Gentiles (the heathen). They were now in charge in the church in Rome and the culture of the church was completely different. The modern example of this would be if all the leaders from a very religious traditional church with stain glass windows, teaches from the KJV, sings hymns, has wooden pews, and everyone wears suits and dresses were banished and it was turned over Gen Z. They'd come back and the sanctuary would be redesigned with strobe lights, hazers, Starbucks in the lobby, everyone dressed in shorts and t-shirts, and teaching from the NLT or Passion Translation. How do you get these two generations to get along and work together? This is what Paul is dealing with.
4. Each side had an aura of superiority. Jews thought they were better because they were God's original chosen people and the Gentiles thought they were better because they were the replacement of the Jews since they rejected Jesus. **These beliefs were reinforced in the Jewish and Gentile house churches.**

B. Today we are going to look at one of the most controversial and confusing topics in the body of Christ: “The Doctrine of Election.” *Romans 9-11* deal heavily with the issues of election, predestination, and God's sovereignty. This is one of the most misunderstood topics in all of the Bible. Wrong understanding of these topics makes people passive (steals their faith and causes them to settle for whatever happens in life)

1. What we'll see is God initially reached the Jews in order to use them to reach the gentiles. His plan was to then use the gentiles to reach unbelieving Jews. Paul details this in great detail. **The main idea is He is the God of everyone!**

2. This is relevant to us because while most Americans don't get divisive about the cultural issues that plagued the Jews and Gentiles, much of the American church divides over these issues. ex: Calvinism (Reformed) or Arminianism.
3. What I want us to do instead of getting trapped in a camp of being Calvinist or Arminian is to realize these are both systems of theology that were created hundreds of years ago to help us understand God. Neither are in the Bible. While they are helpful in some regards, neither are 100% accurate and when we get trapped in either system we can camp out and miss the truth of the scripture that our theological system doesn't allow for. ex: Calvinists don't all agree - 1 point, 3 point, 5 point. Jacob Arminius was a reformer in the Calvinist movement initially.
4. If we'll learn to unify around the Bible and not theological systems or cultural identities (black, white, rich, poor) we can have unity, which will facilitate the greatest reformation the earth has ever seen.

II. Doctrine of Election Part 1- In **Romans 9:6-7** Paul makes the point that the Jews aren't the true Israel by birthright. This happens by faith. This is why throughout the scripture there are Jews (the religious) and gentile (irreligious in the family of God. **The access point to the family of God isn't God's choice. God choose all. It is faith. Matthew 22:14.**

A. **Romans 9:4-13**

1. **Verse 4 - the adoption (Exodus 4:22** God adopted Israel and call Israel His son, **the glory** (His presence traveled with them in the wilderness), **the covenants** (Abrahamic, Mosaic, New Covenant), **the giving of the law at Sinai** (that was to point them to Jesus), **the service (Exodus 19:6** the whole nation was invited to be a kingdom of priests to God), **the promises** (all promises contained in scripture).
2. **Verse 5** Jesus came through the fathers - seed of Abraham.
3. The reason Paul was so passionate about his brethren was because he loved them, but also because he saw how much God had given to them. And in the midst of this, many of them were rejecting Jesus. I'm sure in the midst of this Paul was wanting them to taste and see the Lord is good! **Psalm 34:8.**
4. **Verse 6** Being a true Israelite doesn't come by birthright. It comes by faith. It's not natural, it is supernatural. In **John 8:44** Jesus told the religious Pharisees they were of their father, the devil.
5. **Verses 7-13** These verses reveal key truths about election. Both Isaac and Jacob were elect (chosen by God) to bring Jesus through.
 - a. This did not mean Ishmael and Esau were banished to hell (that is nowhere in the text). It means God chose to bring the seed through other people. This means God would use the older brothers in different ways.
 - b. Why were the younger brothers chosen? Faith ex: Ishmael was not born of faith. He was never the plan conceived by God. Isaac was (**verse 9**). When Abraham and Sarah lived out of faith, the promised son was born. With Esau, he rejected his birthright for a bowl of soup. He rejected

the supernatural for that which is common. Jacob did not! He valued it. The same way Ruth valued the blessing on Naomi's life, which caused her to be brought into the family of God.

c. **Verse 11** The purpose of election (being chosen might stand). From the beginning of time God chose Jacob because Jacob He know Jacob would live by faith and would impart these things to his offspring.

i. We see through the patriarchs, the firstborn rejected and the younger sons chosen. Ex: Ishmael and Isaac, Esau and Jacob, Ruben and Joseph, Manasseh and Ephraim. This was a prophetic picture of how God would bless the Gentiles (second born).

ii. It's also a picture about how God is not limited to man's natural line of reasoning.

d. **Verse 13** *Jacob I have loved but Esau I have hated.* This is not about Jacob and Esau, but about Esau's descendants the Edomites. **Malachi 1:2-4.** The Edomites continually made war with Israel - **Ezekiel 25:12-13** They did not get in faith and worship Yahweh, therefore God did not restore their nation like He restored Israel when they were carried off captive by the Babylonians. **God doesn't hate people, but He does hate a lack of faith.**

B. Takeaways

1. God chooses everyone for salvation. In that since we are all elect. Not all are saved because not all will believe. **Titus 2:11** He wants us to be people of faith!
2. God does elect some for specific purposes to reach the whole world with salvation. Ex: Abraham, Isaac, Jacob.

III. Conclusion - When we have a right view of God and His plans and purposes it causes us to live Him more and it makes us active in our faith to want to see other people saved/have revival.

A. Call Up Prayer Team

B. Pray Closing Prayer