

Rom. 9:12 it was said to her, **THE OLDER WILL SERVE THE YOUNGER.**+

Rom. 9:13 Just as it is written, **JACOB I LOVED, BUT ESAU I HATED.**+

C. SALVATION DOES COME FROM GOD'S SOVEREIGN CHOICE – ELECTION. (11B-13)

D.EXAMPLE OF JACOB AND ESAU.

God does not love all men equally. What is amazing is that He loves anyone at all! (13)

Deut. 7:7,8 **The LORD did not set His love on you nor choose you** because you were more in number than any of the peoples, **but because the LORD loved you,**

Deut. 10:14,15

14 **Behold, to the Lord your God belong heaven and the highest heavens, the earth and all that is in it.**

15 **Let on your fathers did the Lord set His affection to love them, and He chose their descendants after them,** even you above all peoples, as it is this day.

IV. It is God's sovereignty and not man's **free will** that determines individual salvation. (14-16)

Rom. 9:14 What shall we say then? There is no injustice with God, is there? May it never be!

A. DON'T EVEN THINK THAT GOD IS NOT JUST IN ANY OF HIS DECISIONS AND ACTIONS. (14)

Rom. 9:15 For He says to Moses, **I WILL HAVE MERCY ON WHOM I HAVE MERCY, AND I WILL HAVE COMPASSION ON WHOM I HAVE COMPASSION.**+

B. IF GOD DECLARES SOMETHING TO BE JUST, THEN IT IS. (i.e., JUSTICE ISN'T HIGHER THAN GOD). (15)

Rom. 9:16 So then it does not depend on the man who wills or the man who runs, but on God who has mercy.

C. THEREFORE IF ANYONE IS GOING TO BE SAVED, IT WILL HAVE TO BE BY GOD'S CHOICE, NOT MAN'S. (16)

V. God's sovereignty and purpose are so deep, they encompass everything good and evil. (17,18)

Rom. 9:17 For the Scripture says to Pharaoh, **FOR THIS VERY PURPOSE I RAISED YOU UP, TO DEMONSTRATE MY POWER IN YOU, AND THAT MY NAME MIGHT BE PROCLAIMED THROUGHOUT THE WHOLE EARTH.**+

Rom. 9:18 So then He has mercy on whom He desires, and He hardens whom He desires.

A. PHARAOH

1. God raised up and sustained Pharaoh, even though what he was doing was counter to God's desired will. (17a)
2. God did this for His divine purposes:
 - a) Demonstrate His Power
 - b) Proclaim His name

B. NOTE THAT IT IS NOT EXTERNAL COERCION, BUT INTERNAL INCLINATION.

C. GOD BRINGS ABOUT HIS WILL ON BOTH ENDS OF THE SPECTRUM. (18)

VI. How can God hold man accountable if God is determining the outcome? (19-21)

Rom. 9:19 You will say to me then, *Why* does He still find fault? For who resists His will?+

Rom. 9:20 On the contrary, who are you, O man, who answers back to God? The thing molded will not say to the molder, *Why* did you make me like this, + will it?

Rom. 9:21 Or does not the potter have a right over the clay to make from the same lump one vessel for honorable use, and another for common use?

A. ANSWER: I'm God – That's Why!!!

B. EXAMPLE OF THE POTTER AND THE CLAY (21)

The Rights of the Creator/Potter

1. The Creator has never, does not now, nor ever will owe anything to His creation!!!
2. Therefore the ideas of fairness and equality are mute points.

“God is not required to give equally that which He is not required to give at all.”

The Rights of the Creator/Potter

3. Ex Nihilo (Out of Nothing) creation and coherence sustainability places the creation in a position of clay in the hands of the potter.

Heb. 11:3 By faith we understand that the worlds were prepared by the word of God, so *that what is seen was not made out of things which were visible.*

Heb. 1:3 And He is the radiance of His glory and the exact representation of His nature, and upholds all things by the word of His power.

Col. 1:17 He is before all things, and *in Him all things hold together.*

The Rights of the Creator/Potter

4. The Creator/Potter has all rights.
5. The creation has no rights, no claims, no demands.
6. The Potter has the right to make, shape, and design every part and every detail of His creation exactly the way He wants.

The Rights of the Creator/Potter

Jer. 18: 1-6

- 1 The word which came to Jeremiah from the LORD saying,
- 2 *Arise* and go down to the potter's house, and there I will announce My words to you.+
- 3 Then I went down to the potter's house, and there he was, making something on the wheel.
- 4 But the vessel that he was making of clay was spoiled in the hand of the potter; so he remade it into another vessel, as it pleased the potter to make.
- 5 Then the word of the LORD came to me saying,
- 6 *Can I not, O house of Israel, deal with you as this potter does?+ declares the LORD. Behold, like the clay in the potter's hand, so are you in My hand, O house of Israel.*

The Rights of the Creator/Potter

Is. 29:15-16

- 15 Woe to those who deeply hide their plans from the LORD, And whose deeds are done in a dark place, And they say, *Who sees us?+or Who knows us?+*
- 16 You turn things around! *Shall the potter be considered as equal with the clay, that what is made would say to its maker, He did not make me; Or what is formed say to him who formed it, He has no understanding?+*
7. The Creator/Potter has the right to execute justice based on the standard He has determined that serve His Divine Decrees.

VII. The ultimate reason behind it all. (22-24)

Rom. 9:22 What if God, although willing to demonstrate His wrath and to make His power known, endured with much patience vessels of wrath prepared for destruction?

A. ELECTION AND THE ENTIRE PLAN OF GOD HAS ONE PURPOSE, ONE GOAL, AND THAT IS THE GLORY OF GOD.

Rom. 9:23 And He did so in order that He might make known the riches of His glory upon vessels of mercy, which He Prepared beforehand for glory.

B. GOD'S WRATH AGAINST SIN AND HIS POWER IN JUDGEMENT SERVES TO PRODUCE IN THE VESSELS OF MERCY (ELECT) THE ABILITY TO KNOW HIM MOST COMPLETELY AND WORSHIP HIM WITH THE GREATEST INTENSITY FOR ALL ETERNITY.

Rom. 9:24 even us, whom He also called, not from among Jews only, but also from among Gentiles.

C. ELECTION IS TRUE NOT ONLY FOR THE JEW, BUT ALSO FOR THE GENTILE.

Paul (Acts 9:1-6,15)

1 Now Saul, still breathing threats and murder against the disciples of the Lord, went to the high priest, 2 and asked for letters from him to the synagogues at Damascus, so that if he found any belonging to the Way, both men and women, he might bring them bound to Jerusalem. 3 As he was traveling, it happened that he was approaching Damascus, and suddenly a **light from heaven flashed** around him; 4 and he fell to the ground and heard a voice saying to him, %Saul, Saul, why are you persecuting Me?+5 And he said, %Who are you, Lord?+And He said, %I am Jesus whom you are persecuting, 6 but get up and enter the city, and it will be told you what you must do.+

15 But the Lord said to him, %Go for he is a **chosen** instrument of Mine, to bear My name before the Gentiles and kings and the sons of Israel;

Lydia (Acts 16:14-15)

14 A woman named Lydia, from the city of Thyatira, a seller of purple fabrics, a worshiper of God, was listening; and **the Lord opened her heart** to respond to the things spoken by Paul. 15 And when she and her household had been baptized, she urged us, saying, %I have judged me to be faithful to the Lord, come into my house and stay.+And she prevailed upon us.

VI. 1 Timothy 2:1-4 & 2 Peter 3:9

1 Tim. 2:1-4

First of all, then, I urge that entreaties and prayers, petitions and thanksgivings, be made in behalf of all men 2 for kings and all who are in authority, so that we may lead a tranquil and quiet life in all godliness and dignity. 3 This is good and acceptable in the sight of God our Savior, 4 who desires all men to be saved and to come to the knowledge of the truth.

2 Peter 3:9

The Lord is not slow about His promise, as some count slowness, but is patient toward you, not wishing for any to perish but for all to come to repentance.

God's Will: 1 Will – 2 Dimensions

God's Determined Will -what He determines will happen.
(unrevealed in His Divine Decrees)

- Ex. 4:21 The Lord said to Moses, **When you go back to Egypt see that you perform before Pharaoh all the wonders which I have put in your power; but I will harden his heart so that he will not let the people go.**
- Acts 2:23 this Man, **delivered over by the predetermined plan and foreknowledge of God, you nailed to a cross by the hands of godless men and put Him to death.**
- Acts 4:27-28 **For truly in this city there were gathered together against Your holy servant Jesus, whom You anointed, both Herod and Pontius Pilate, along with the Gentiles and the peoples of Israel, to do whatever Your hand and Your purpose predestined to occur.**
- Matt. 22:14 **For many are called, but few are chosen.+**

God's Will: 1 Will – 2 Dimensions

God's Determined Will -what He determines will happen.
(unrevealed in His Divine Decrees)

- Matt. 7:13-14 **Enter through the narrow gate; for the gate is wide and the way is broad that leads to destruction, and there are many who enter through it. 14 For the gate is small and the way is narrow that leads to life, and there are few who find it.**
- Rom. 9:21-22 **Or does not the potter have a right over the clay, to make from the same lump one vessel for honorable use and another for common use? 22 What if God, although willing to demonstrate His wrath and to make His power known, endured with much patience vessels for destruction?**

God's Will: 1 Will – 2 Dimensions

God's Desired Will
(revealed in His Word)

- Ex. 5:1 **Thus says the LORD, the GOD of Israel, Let My people go that they may celebrate a feast to Me in the wilderness.+**
- Ex. 20:13 **You shall not murder."**
- 2 Peter 3:9 The Lord is not slow about His promise, as some count slowness, but is patient toward you, **not wishing for any to perish** but for all to come to repentance.
- 1Tim. 2:3-4 **This is good and acceptable in the sight of God our Savior, who desires all men to be saved** and to come to the knowledge of the truth.

2 Peter 3:9 states, **The Lord is not slow about His promise, as some count slowness, but is patient toward you, not wishing for any to perish but for all to come to repentance.+**

Wishing+ is from Gr. verb **boulamai+** which is synonymous with the will of God.

Rom. 9:19 states, **You will say to me then, Why does He still find fault For who resists His will? q+(No one resists His will!!!)**

Will+ here is the same term used in 2 Peter 3:9 - **boulamai+**

If no one can resist (ultimately) His will, and if God willed that all would be saved, then you would be left with universalism!

The answer: GOD'S WILL HAS TWO DIMENSIONS

Acts 2:23 states, **This Man, delivered over by the predetermined plan and foreknowledge of God, you nailed to a cross by the hands of godless men and put Him to death.+**

Those who murdered Jesus violated **God's Moral or Desired Will** while fulfilling **His Determined or Decreed Will**.

Revelation 17:17 states, **For God has put it in their hearts to execute His purpose by having a common purpose, and by giving their kingdom to the beast, until the words of God will be fulfilled.+**

Here people are aligned with the beast who are obviously **violating God's Moral Will** by giving their allegiance to the beast, yet fulfilling **God's Determined or Decreed Will**.

On one hand God DOES desire (Moral Will) that all would repent and believe the gospel (2 Peter 3:9) **The Lord is not slow about His promise, as some count slowness, but is patient toward you, not wishing for any to perish but for all to come to repentance.+**

On the other hand God also wills that only SOME are saved (Decreed Will) (Matt. 22:14) **For many are called, but FEW are chosen.+**

1 Cor. 1:23-24 **but we preach Christ crucified, a stumbling block to Jews and folly to Gentiles, but to those who are called, both Jews and Greeks, Christ the power of God and the wisdom of God.+**

Principle: God wills the "greater good"

It may be His desired will or it may not be. It is decided by what God determines for any given situation will best put on display His divine attributes and therefore achieve His divine purpose.

We exercise our wills the same way:

%really want a piece of French Silk pie, but I am determined to stick to my diet.+

%really desire to go on a trip to Europe, but I am determined to save my money.+

%don't want to punish you, but it is the best thing to do.+

**How Does the Doctrine of Election
Make a Practical Difference in My Life?**

The Doctrine Of Election produces humility. It crushes pride. I can take %credit for my salvation. Salvation is all of God. Jonah 2:9 %Salvation is from the LORD.+It was not my intellect, my wisdom, my spiritual sensitivity, my ??? that caused me to respond to the gospel. It was God's sovereign work of grace in my life. My pride, my ego, my arrogance is crushed. Election is the most powerful doctrine we have that humbles the heart of the believer. Perhaps that is why there is so much arrogance in the Church.

The Doctrine of Election exalts God. It gives Him all the credit. It puts me on my knees in daily thanksgiving and worship of Him who chose me and saved me. Can I do anything less than worship and praise Him forever for rescuing me from the judgment and condemnation to Hell?

**How Does the Doctrine of Election
Make a Practical Difference in My Life?**

The Doctrine of Election keeps the Church focused on deep, thought-filled, God-glorifying study and contemplation.

It keeps our minds from becoming flabby, unproductive, lazy, and wasted. It promotes rigorous discussion, perseverance in study, and countless hours of meditation, all of which gives firmness, fiber, and content to all of the doctrines of Scripture as they apply to the life of the Church. It awakens believers who are drifting on a sea of assumed beliefs, who have never thought through or analyzed what they believe. The doctrine of Election is good for us, our children, and our grandchildren.

**How Does the Doctrine of Election
Make a Practical Difference in My Life?**

The Doctrine of Election keeps the Church from compromise, gimmicks, and arm-twisting evangelism. We evangelize in a graveyard not in a hospital ward. God will draw the elect. God has also specified how He will draw the elect and what He uses. The Church's responsibility is to give a clear, uncompromised proclamation of the gospel.

The Doctrine of Election produces holiness. If God elects you and predestines you to holiness. Eph. 1:4 %Just as He chose us in Him before the foundation of the world, that we would be blameless before Him.+ then our goal should be to be holy. We should desire to %grow in the grace and knowledge of the Lord Jesus Christ+so that we may magnify Him Who has so wonderfully chosen and saved us for all eternity.

**How Does the Doctrine of Election
Make a Practical Difference in My Life?**

The Doctrine of Election is the basis for my eternal security. There are no dropouts in God's plan. Those in eternity past that were elected for salvation, all will make it to their final destiny in Heaven (Rom. 8:29,30). This is not based on my %keeping power+, but rather on His (Jn. 10:27-29). He is the one whom our confidence is in Phil. 1:6 For I am confident of this very thing, that He who began a good work in you will perfect it until the day of Christ Jesus.+Phil. 2:13 %for it is God who is at work in you, both to will and to work for His good pleasure.+ If you are truly saved God will be at work in your life producing fruit (Gal. 5:22,23), and good works (Eph. 2:10, James 2:14-26).

The Doctrine of Election results in stability. I am eternally secure. I am loved. God has chosen me in eternity past. I have a glorious future. By His sovereignty and providence, He is in control of every detail of my life.

**How Does the Doctrine of Election
Make a Practical Difference in My Life?**

The Doctrine of Election infuses the believer with boldness. If God is sovereign, if God has chosen me, predestined me, and given me a security that is eternal, then I should have boldness in my witness and the %isks+ I take to reach the world with the gospel. Rom. 8:33 %Who will bring a charge against God's elect?+ Acts 18: 9-10 %And the Lord said to Paul in the night by a vision, %Do not be afraid any longer, but go on speaking and do not be silent; for I am with you, and no man will attack you in order to harm you, for I have many people in this city."

**How Does the Doctrine of Election
Make a Practical Difference in My Life?**

The Doctrine of Election gets my eyes off myself and onto God. Election gives me purpose and direction as I focus my life on **His Glory**. It keeps my relationship with God in the proper perspective . He is the potter, I am the clay. God judges me, I don't judge Him (Job 38-42).

The Doctrine of Election makes my evangelism and prayer effective. I have confidence, even though I am unaware who they are, that God has elected some individuals who will respond to the gospel when I proclaim it. My job is to be faithful and bold. God will be faithful in drawing men to Himself. Likewise when I pray for the unsaved, I know God will, in His sovereignty and providence, bring about His will and answer those prayers in the manner He determines as best.