

Romans 9:14-29 sermon questions from John Fernandez for Sunday October 16<sup>th</sup>, 2022

1. The context: Paul addresses a concern that Israel's rejection and unbelief in Christ indicated God's promises to Israel had failed (9:6). He informs us that not all Israel (that is descendants of Abraham) were truly descendants from Israel, that is, truly believers (see 2:29). In other words, God had always fulfilled His promises through those He chose, not just Israel as a whole (9:7-13). This choice was based apart from their works or worthiness and solely on His sovereign choice. (9:11-13).
2. According to 9:14, what accusation against God does Paul address? What is Paul's response to this accusation in this verse? Why would God's sovereign election seem to be unfair?
3. In 9:15, Paul quotes Exodus 33:19 which is in the context of Israel's idolatry in making the golden calf and God's killing of 3000 in response to it. In other words, ALL of Israel except a remnant had gone into idolatry and ALL deserved to die, yet God showed mercy in only killing some.
4. From the quote of Ex. 33:19, what do we learn about the nature of God's election? Why would this counter the accusation that God's election is unfair?
5. What does 9:16 tell us about the basis of God's election?
6. In 9:16, the word "wills" meant continuing desires to have. Therefore, God's election is not based on man's desire for Him because man does not desire God. What do the following verses tell us about man's desires regarding God: Romans 1:21,24-25,28; 3:11; 5:10; 8:7; Ephesians 2:3; John 3:19-20.
7. In 9:16 God's election is not based on "the one who runs (or works)". What do you think this means? What would man's works never be the basis of God's choice? See Romans 3:19-20.
8. In 9:17, What does Paul say was the reason God raised up Pharaoh? How did God display His power to save His elect nation of Israel from the overwhelming, impossible to defeat, power of Pharaoh? How does God display His power to save the elect today? What impossible condition are the elect in before He saves them? See Ephesians 2:1-3.
9. Election therefore is just because it demonstrates God's infinite power to save those who not only don't deserve it or desire it, but whose condition of sin make it impossible for them to save themselves.
10. In 9:19-24 Paul answers the accusation that God's election means' it is unfair for Him to judge or find fault with those whom He doesn't choose? Why would people think this?
11. In 9:20-21, What does Paul give as his first answer to this accusation?
12. In Job 40:1-3,7-14, What did God do in response to Job's accusation that He was unfair? What was Job's response to this in Job 42:1-6?
13. What does Romans 9:22 say is a reason God is not unjust to judge the non-elect? What does it reveal about the effect their sin has on God and yet God's grace towards them?
14. In Romans 9:23 what does God's election do for the elect, the vessels of mercy? How does this make you feel as a Christian? Why do you think God wants His children to know they are His elect? That He personally chose them before the world was created? What difference does it make knowing this?