



PREDESTINATION

ROMANS 9:1-33 * JUNE 4, 2023

AN OVERVIEW OF ROMANS 9–11

Romans 9: The _____ of God.

Romans 10: The _____ of God.

Romans 11: The _____ of God.

A CONVERSATION ABOUT PREDESTINATION

① Predestination begins with the sovereign _____ of God. (Romans 9:6-13)

* hatred—has to do with _____, not emotion.

② Predestination reinforces the _____ character of God. (Romans 9:14-18)

* mercy, steadfast love (ἔλεος) – Greek translation of the Hebrew word (hesed (חֶסֶד)) = God’s loyal _____ love for His chosen people.

③ Predestination demonstrates the _____ of God. (Romans 9:19-22)

* Because God is the sovereign Creator, He has the right to do with His creation as He _____.

* We lost our right to complain when we _____ to rebel against a righteous and holy Creator.

④ Predestination corrects our understanding of the _____ of God. (Romans 9:23-33)

| THE EXCESSES OF FREEWILL CHOICE | THE EXCESSES OF PREDESTINATION |
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| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • places the burden of salvation squarely on the shoulders of the individual • denies or minimizes the depravity of the human heart • suggests that one can lose his or her salvation, either by choice or by sinning • invariably leads to legalism (an emphasis on keeping laws to retain salvation) | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • places the liability for an individual’s condemnation entirely on God • leads to the conclusion that God is culpable for evil • suggests that humanity has no stake at all in God’s plan to redeem the world • invariably leads to fatalism (an under-emphasis on human responsibility) and paralysis |

LIFE GROUP DISCUSSION:

1. Ten people are guilty of exactly the same crime. The judge decides to pardon all but one, who serves the full sentence. How would you evaluate the judge’s decision?
2. Read Romans 9:1-5. Why does Paul have great sorrow for the people of Israel?
3. Read Romans 9:6-18. How do you respond to the idea of election, God choosing certain people to be the objects of his mercy (v. 11)?
4. Many people feel it is unjust for God to choose some and not others (v. 14). In reply why does Paul speak of God’s mercy rather than His justice or injustice (verses 15-18)?
5. Read Romans 9:19-33. To what extent can you identify with the objection raised in verse 19? How does the illustration of the potter and his clay help us gain a proper perspective (verses 20-23)?
6. A story has been told that when we approach the gates of Heaven we read, “Whoever wills may enter.” Yet as we pass through the gates and look back, we will read, “Chosen before the foundation of the world.” Do you find this story helpful or not? Explain.