

Sermon Reflections

Is Salvation Fair? (Romans 9:6-24)

Summary: The doctrine of God's sovereignty in salvation humbles us, for it ultimately takes our salvation out of our hands. While we might question if this is fair, we cannot question that this is the only way our salvation can be secure.

(Fairness is something we all want, except when we do something wrong; then we want mercy.)

1. Our Salvation rests on His promise, not our workings (vv 6-13)

- Chapter 9 follows the exultation of God and His Christ that follows Paul's explanation of the Gospel in chapters 1-8. How does that help set the stage for this challenging text?
- If Israel, being God's chosen people, turned away from salvation, has God's word failed? Explain. How do we explain "children of the promise"? (v 8) How do the births of Isaac and Jacob shed light on "the promise"? What was the purpose of choosing the younger son over the older?

2. Our Salvation rests on His Will, not our willingness (vv. 14-18)

- Is God unjust by having mercy on some and not on others? What is the just thing for God to do with man? Why does God show mercy and compassion to anyone?
- What would happen if things like mercy or salvation depended on man's will? What are some of the benefits of mercy and salvation resting on the will of God?
- How are we to rightly think about those that do not receive mercy? For what purpose did God raise Pharaoh up and harden his heart? Does Rom 1:18 – 32 shed any light on this?

3. Our Salvation rests on His Right, not our reasonings (vv. 19-24)

- God is in total control of salvation while we are still held responsible, for no one can resist Him. The example of the potter and the clay, the example of Job and his final discussion with God; all of these lead us to Rom 11:33-36. Discuss these verses in light of the cross.
- Which question should we ponder? "Am I chosen?" or "Do I believe in Christ?" Why?
- Humbled: We are no better than anyone else to receive mercy! How does this truth impact your life?
- What steps can you take to rest in the assurance in Christ each day?

Is God Sovereign or Is Man Responsible?

YES?

Would we want it any other way?