

Who Chooses Whom?

Ray Stedman

I. Introduction.

A. Text: Romans 9:1-29.

B. Paul answers whether God has rejected His people the Jews and whether God is through with the nation of Israel.

II. Has God rejected the Jews?

A. God hardened the Jews, but they are not thrown out--there is a remnant of grace, of which Paul is an example.

B. Grace puts the matter beyond justifiable complaint. No one can complain if only some are saved.

C. Whatever God does with Israel is a picture of what God does with the Christian.

1. When we think that we have obtained some status before God, this is indication we are in the most pitiable condition.

2. God is illustrating that despite the evil we do He is always preserving a remnant of grace in us.

3. There is eternal security--it is possible to lose much, but there will always be a remnant of grace.

III. Is God through with Israel?

A. Many think this is so, but Paul says otherwise.

B. The Jews had to be set aside temporarily for the inclusion of the Gentiles and their own restoration through jealousy.

C. God originally intended to use Israel as a showcase of His grace.

D. God was under no obligation to save the believer.

E. All Israel will be saved still.

F. Paul is illustrating that God sets aside all activity of the human life in earning merit before Him.

1. When the believer admits and realizes this, then opportunities and possibilities open up to him.

2. Christ working through the believer becomes his power.

3. The Christian never becomes any more able to serve God in himself--it is always only through Christ.

4. Pride is forever the greatest temptation and cruelest enemy consequently.

5. Some day however, even the believer's flesh will serve God.

Application questions:

1. What is the role of the Jews in salvation history? Explain.

2. How does God's work with the Jews give the Christian a sense of security?

3. In what ways do you struggle to obtain God's favor through your own efforts? How does this message help to relieve a believer of that struggle?
