

Let God be God

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I. Introduction.

A. Text: Romans 9:14-33.

B. People often have a flat view of God as people used to have a flat view of the earth.

II. Principles.

A. God never chooses people according to their gifts or natural advantages.

B. God always chooses people based upon a promise of activity on their behalf.

1. There always is a promise.

2. Salvation must come from a promise.

C. The promise of God is never based on whether a person is good or bad.

III. God's basis for choosing is His sovereign will.

A. Man does not like someone having absolute power.

B. It is possible to have a being that would not use his absolute power to hurt someone.

C. God's selection of Moses and hardening of Pharaoh is an example of His selection to display His greatness.

D. God's creatures need a display of His greatness for their welfare.

IV. Some men charge God then for evil because men cannot resist Him.

V. Paul's defense of God's goodness.

A. A man who makes the most foolish of mistakes ought not to stand up against the God of infinite wisdom.

B. Man exercises delegated authority, so we should not deny God's authority.

C. God cannot be said to be unjust because He displays His great mercy and patience this way.

1. We are not being forced to come to God we are drawn to Him.

2. It is in this way that He provides for salvation.

3. We have to accept it even if we do not understand it.

4. If God had not acted this way, the world would have been like Sodom and Gomorra.
 - a. We were born lost, and we will only resist God apart from Him. (Romans 3)
 - b. God is not shutting us away—it is His grace that is reaching out to us.
 - c. God’s justice could allow the race to be lost, but His mercy reaches out to save many.

VI. Jesus is the crisis of humanity—the test will always be what a person does with Jesus.

Application questions:

1. Read Romans 9:14-33. Do you find the speaker’s argument consistent with what the Bible is saying? Explain.

2. How does Paul defend God’s election?

3. How does God’s display of Himself fit into the doctrine of election? Why is this so important for the believer?
