

# Romans – The Crown Jewel of Salvation

## 49-“So What Difference Does it Make in My Life?”

### Romans 9

Grace Fellowship Church / Pastor Brad Bigney / March 29, 2015

What difference does the doctrine of election make? Today we'll look at **Three Responses** that should get stirred up in us when we dig down into this glorious doctrine of election.

#### I. **An Understanding of God's Electing Love Cuts the Feet Out From Underneath Our Pride and Cultivates a Spirit of Humility**

God knows that one of our biggest, most pervasive root sins that we struggle with for a lifetime is pride! It shouldn't surprise us that He reveals to us a doctrine that cuts the feet out from underneath our pride!

**Proverbs 6:16-18** “These six things the LORD hates, yes, seven are an abomination to Him: a proud look, a lying tongue, hands that shed innocent blood, a heart that devises wicked plans, feet that are swift in running to evil, a false witness who speaks lies, and one who sows discord among brethren.”

Pride heads up the list of what God hates the most! And so the doctrine of election helps us to put to death one of our greatest sins!

**I Corinthians 1:26-29** “For you see your **calling**, brethren, that not many wise according to the flesh, not many mighty, not many noble, are **called**. But God has **chosen** the foolish things of the world to put to shame the wise, and God has **chosen** the weak things of the world to put to shame the things which are mighty; and the base things of the world and the things which are despised God has **chosen**, and the things which are not, to bring to nothing the things that are, **that** no flesh should glory in His presence.” Paul knows we're such sinners that we'll even try to take pride in our own conversion.

Paul shows us that that's not how it happened. Look in **v. 30**. at the three words that head up that verse – ‘But of Him...’

NASB “But by His doing you are in Christ Jesus”

NIV “It is because of Him that you are in Christ Jesus.”

There is nothing that you can boast about in regards to your salvation.

“God intentionally designed salvation so that no man can boast of it. He didn't merely arrange it so that boasting would be discouraged or kept to a minimum. He planned it so that boasting would be absolutely excluded. Election does precisely that and comprehensively that!” Mark Webb, “**What Difference Does it Make?**” *Reformation and Revival Journal*, Vol. 3, No. 1, Winter 1994, p. 52

The fact that this doctrine cuts the feet out from underneath our pride is one of the reasons so many people hate it, even Christians, because they just can't come to grips with how bad they really are and how good God really is.

#### II. **An Understanding of God's Electing Love Chokes Out Your Whining and Fills You with Gratitude**

Stop and think about it. On your very worst day, when everything's falling apart and nothing seems to be going your way, if you've been saved, you've been made right with the God of the universe.

- Do you realize that the God of the universe saw YOU and stopped YOU in your willful, stubborn, rebellious rush towards the gates of hell? And placed His love on you while you were still His enemy?

- Why? And why you and not someone else?

Scripture makes it clear that God doesn't love you because there's something so lovable about you or anything special that caught His eye and drew Him to you.

It was simply and solely the incredible mercy of God poured out on you. According to His own good pleasure, to the praise of the glory of His grace!

When this doctrine really gets a hold of you, you see it as a call to worship that brings you to your knees in gratitude and humility, not to our feet for a fight!

**1 Peter 2:9-10** "But you are a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, His own special people, that you may proclaim the praises of Him who called you out of darkness into His marvelous light...."

### III. An Understanding of God's Electing Love Sharpens Your Focus and Fuels a Lifetime of God-Centered Worship

The doctrine of election was meant to invoke an incredible response of worship! God didn't reveal this doctrine to us to start fights, feed egos, or split churches.

Look at Paul's doxology of praise in **Ephesians 1:3-14** that was evoked as Paul was moved by the glories of God's sovereign grace!

Three times Paul says, "to the praise of His glory and His grace!" That's it. That's the point.

Ephesians 1: 3-14 is really one long, uninterrupted outburst of praise! That's the effect of understanding the sovereign grace of election.

- Do you have the perspective of one who lives on your knees?

Paul concludes this whole section on the Sovereignty of God:

**Romans 11:33-36** "Oh, the depth of the riches both of the wisdom and knowledge of God! How unsearchable are His judgments and unfathomable His ways! For who has known the mind of the Lord, or who became His counselor? Or who has first given to Him that it might be paid back to Him again? For from Him and through Him and to Him are all things. To Him be glory forever. Amen."

"I ask myself, I ask you: where is the "Oh!" in our response to God. Where is the intensity of awe and amazement that a true knowledge of the Holy One of Israel ought to evoke? Much of the church has lost the "Oh!" in her relationship with and response to God. Do you want to know why so many believers are muddling through the Christian life, just trying to stay out of hell and to get by with as little discomfort and risk as possible? It's because when they think of God, instead of "Oh!" their response is a "Who?" of ignorance, or a "Huh?" of disinterest, or a "So what?" of indifference. It isn't exclamatory excitement but a religious snore that emanates from the soul of so many in the church today when the character of God is at issue." Sam Storms, *Pleasures Evermore*, p. 108-109

- What about you? Do you need some more humility, gratitude, and a heart to worship in your life right now?

Then look to the doctrine of God's sovereign grace and electing love, because when you stop fighting against it, and bow down before it, this great doctrine will stir in you humility, gratitude, and praise for a lifetime!