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| 1  Romans 9:6-18 Sermon Outline  02/09/25  “Is God Unrighteous?”  **PRELIMINARY THOUGHTS**  Before read passage = share from heart  Last week = Rom. 9:1-5  Hoping that we get through the rest of Rom. 9 in one fell sweep = maintain 10,000 ft overview  But realized not able to do it justice  (However, if you want to be like the Africans in an African church = preach for hours upon hours = intermission = few stretch breaks for myself = doable)  Too many questions/confusion at end of sermon = did the rest of Rom. 9 today  2000 ft overview | 2  Now it’s one thing = you don’t understand = because you don’t understand you reject  it’s another thing = you do understand = you reject it away  I can’t control whether you accept or reject a certain doctrine = between you and God and you will be accountable to him, not me  Only HS that can produce that change in your heart to accept it  What I can control = how well and clearly I communicate the truth  How I see it is if I go at the speed we’ve been going for today = I might end up leaving some of you more confused and even frustrated than edified  Don’t worry I’m not saying we’re going to go at a snail’s pace where Ivan moves back here after graduating college and we’re still in Romans |
| 3  And I hope you know me well enough = not type of preacher = favorite theological hobby horse  I could have from June 2023 = T.U.L.I.P = doctrines of grace = series  T = Total Depravity  U = Unconditional Election  L = Limited Atonement  I = Irresistable Grace  P = Perseverance of the Saints  Sermon on each  I do hold to all five points of the doctrines of grace = Scripture is teaching  However I didn’t do that why:  1) I didn’t want you to throw dead cats at me (It’s funny Les told me, I never heard of people throwing dead cats at preachers…and I said = well actually yes there was George Whitefield…) | 4  Btw I love cats more than dogs, I’m just using cats because if I use dogs as an example, well ugh uh…people might react a little bit more viciously against me  2) See for yourself that those theological systems = rooted in the Word of God as we come to those passages naturally and not forcefully  Yes TULIP = organized/systematized by men = but its foundation is in the Word of God  And like everything I say,  Don’t just take my word for it, like the Bereans in Acts 17, search and see for yourself if what I am saying = Scripture  With that being said = **Read Scripture Passage**  **INTRO:**  We are Americans right?  Nothing more American = choosing destiny/trailblaz.. |
| 5  Nothing more American than picking up bootstraps  Reliance = will/power/determination  Nothing more American = freedom be who you want to be/do what you want to do  And so, nothing more repugnant, more disgusting, more odious to our American sensibilities = someone dictate your destiny, who you are, what you are to do  We love democracy = cringe dictatorship  Don’t get me wrong = I love my country, I love the freedoms that I have, and while it’s not perfect America is the best country in the world  Unfortunately American mindset = make it harder for us accept certain doctrines and teachings of Scripture = sovereignty of God  Sovereignty ultimately asks the question, “Am I ultimately in control of my destiny, or is God?” | 6  Not just American problem  = everybody problem!  = human problem!  Deep down in unbelieving heart = deep seated rebellion against the sovereignty of God  Just like Adam and Eve, we desire to be masters and gods of our own life…  And it has to be that we make the choice to choose God or not because if God is sovereign over our lives, including our choice in salvation, then doesn’t that make God unrighteous?  Good question  **MAIN POINT:** |
| 7  The answer that God will give us is no, He is not unrighteous but righteous, and not only is He righteous but he is merciful, because we as unrighteous sinners were shown mercy by a righteous God, and only when we understand that can we truly know and experience the wonder  Power and amazement of His love towards us in choosing us for salvation instead of passing us by  **REVIEW:**  Last week Rom. 9:1-5 = Paul’s evangelistic passion and heart and grief for his people  Despite all the advantages of being a Jew, majority of Jews rejected their Messiah, and they still rejected Him for the most part again for the second time when the apostles were preaching their Messiah in the book of Acts  One of the questions that I left us with that a first century Jew would have asked is “Has God’s Word failed?” Because it seems like God has given up on Israel and is now focusing on the Gentiles | 8  And that leads us right to where we left off  We come to 9:6 “*But it is not as though the word of God has failed. For they are not all Israel who are descended from Israel*.”  No God’s Word has not failed  Jn 10:35 “*Scriptures cannot be broken*”  Isaiah 55:11 “*My word be which goes forth from My mouth; It will not return to Me empty, Without accomplishing what pleases Me, And without succeeding in the matter for which I sent it*.”  Fundamental misunderstanding = If you are an ethnic Jew = you are saved  If Jew = automatically in God’s kingdom  Many think like that today = since I was born and raised in a Christian household, I am automatically a Christian |
| 9  But Paul says “*Not all Israel who are descended from Israel;* verse 7 “*nor are they all children because they are Abraham’s seed, but: “THROUGH ISAAC YOUR SEED WILL BE NAMED*. *That is, the children of the flesh are not the children of God, but the children of the promise are considered as seed*.”  In other words God is saying that the promised seed of Abraham, the children of the promise, was through Isaac’s line, not through Hagar.  But that promise did not come about until 25 years later  Explain Abraham + Hagar = Ishmael = sympathize = but sinful unbelief, not trusting in God’s promise  Why did God wait so long?  A: To make it clear to Abraham and Sarah and to us that God and God alone was going to accomplish and fulfill His own promises  No shadow of a doubt that it was not Abraham or Sarah that had anything to do with Isaac’s conception | 10  Sarah was 90 years old when she conceived! Yikes!  Abraham was 100 years old!  Sarah obviously dead womb and Abraham was impotent by this time = we also dead in our trespasses and sins  And all those who believed in God by faith like Abraham and Sarah did are the true seed of Isaac  But another objection  I’m sure = not Paul’s first time around rodeo of objections  Someone could say Isaac was only chosen over Ishmael because Ishmael = half-blooded Jew, not pure blooded  So to answer that, another example VV. 10-13 |
| 11  “*And not only this, but there was Rebekah also, when she had conceived twins by one man, our father Isaac; for though the twins were not yet born and had not done anything good or bad, so that the purpose of God according to His choice would stand, not because of works but because of Him who calls, it was said to her, “The older shall serve the younger.” Just as it is written, “Jacob I loved, but Esau I hated*.”  Now this time Isaac is grown up = married Rebekah = twins = Jacob and Esau  But listen to this VV. 11-12 “*though the twins were not yet born and had not done anything good or bad,” but so that the purpose of God according to His choice (not “our” choice) would stand*.”  And if somehow that was not clear Paul says = “*not because of works but because of Him who calls*”  What is this type of call? = Open call?  Come all you who are weary and heavy laden and I will give you rest? No  Effectual call? Lazarus come forth! YES! | 12  Why did God make older brother Esau serve younger brother Jacob?  Malachi 1 = “*Just as it is written, “Jacob I loved, but Esau I hated*.”  “Hate” = very strong language and we have a tough time with it because we know if we ever hate someone, it’s tainted and fueled by sin  But God’s hatred = pure, holy, and without sin  Some have tried to interpret “hate” to mean other senses like “being favored less by God”  But if that’s the case V. 14 loses its punch and meaning  V. 14  “*What shall we say then? Is there any unrighteousness with God? May it never be*!”  Essentially they’re saying “that’s not fair God!” If you act like that, then do you even yourself have a standard of righteousness and justice? |
| 13  And Paul says “May it never be!” Mei genoita = we’ve seen that phrase that’s the eighth time we’ve seen that!  And what does God do to demonstrate that He is not unrighteous?  He quotes Exodus 32 and 33  V. 15 “*For He (God) says to Moses*, “*I will have mercy on whom I have mercy, and I will have compassion on whom I have compassion*  Ex. 33:19 = important to understand context of Exodus 32 + 33 = because if we don’t, we’re going to miss Paul’s whole point of the argument  Exodus 32 = Moses went up to Mt. Sinai to receive tablets of stone = people fell into idolatry = golden calf  God = to Moses = step aside so that I may blot them out and create a new nation from you  About to press the “reset button” | 14  But Moses interceded = said blot me out instead!  But God still commanded 3000 to be executed, only 3000 out of what tens of thousands of Israelites committing idolatry?  Remember 3000 out of 2,000,000  It was shortly after golden calf incident Ex. 33:19 God declared who He was to Moses  “*I Myself will make all My goodness pass before you, and I will proclaim the name of Yahweh before you; and I will be gracious to whom I will be gracious, and I will show compassion on whom I will show compassion*.”  Do you know what He said by saying that?  Moses, I could have justly killed all the Israelites involved in worshipping this golden calf, but I spared the majority because I am a good God  All of Israel deserved that punishment, so if God spared all but one Israelite, He would be merciful/gra |
| 15  If God did not spare any of the Israelites, but decided to execute all of the Israelites and start a new nation from Moses = He would just and righteous in doing so because they deserved it  So what we learn from the golden calf incident in Exodus 32 is verse 16 of Romans 9  “*So then it does not depend on the one who wills or the one who runs, but on God who has mercy*.”  Sometimes we act pridefully as believers as if God somehow needed our help or was benefited by our obedience to Him  But the proper attitude should be Jesus said to disciples Luke 17:10  “*when you do all the things which are commanded of you, say, ‘We are unworthy slaves; we have done only that which we ought to have done*.’” | 16  But someone might say = that’s Israel = they were weak willed and they always stumbled into idolatry, if they were more powerful and more strong willed = God would notice  So Paul gives another example = most powerful man on planet at that time = Pharaoh = Ramses II  Can the most powerful, most stubborn and strong willed man resist or oppose God? = No  *“For this very purpose I raised you up, in order to demonstrate My power in you, and in order that My name might be proclaimed throughout the whole earth*.” Can you imagine if God spoke to you like that?  Can you imagine God talking to him like that?  I think God has made His point clear V 18 “*So then He has mercy on whom He desires, and He hardens whom He desires*.” |
| 17  “Hardening” = sclerosis = MS = breakdown of protective covering of nerves = hardening of heart = breakdown of the conscience to where you can’t hear God’s voice anymore  Scary place to be  God desired Pharaoh’s heart to be hardened = but what’s interesting = Pharaoh hardened his own heart as well!  So what is it telling us? While God ultimately is sovereign and in control over men’s destinies, including one’s eternal condemnation, unbelief and sin is directly our responsibility and fault, not God’s  “I will not let your people go!” = not God’s fault = but Pharaoh’s  No person in hell will be able to say = God it’s your fault I’m in here = you’re the one who created that unbelief in me to reject you, you’re the one who created sin and evil in my heart to condemn me  no, no, no | 18  Every sinner will be there because they deserve it  Jm. 1:13 *“I am being tempted by God; for God cannot be tempted by evil, and He Himself does not tempt anyone*.”  God = not author/originator = sin  Now, Pharaoh’s heart hardening = ultimate demise = doctrine of reprobation = doctrine of the sinner’s condemnation  Latin = “rejected by God”  Tough doctrine = even toughter = election = my opinion  But best analogy/illustration = reprobation = football analogy = rejoice you football lovers!  Keep in mind, bear with me, that analogies are not perfect one to one correspondence with reality of what it is describing |
| 19  Only meant to help us understand by using something we are familiar with to explain the unfamiliar and foreign  Coach = God = master play “reprobation”  The playing field = consists of many sinners  Football going into endzone = sinner carrying out his sin  Quarterback = running back = touchzone!  Question: Was God (coach) directly responsible for the ball going into the endzone? No  Who was directly responsible? Running back  Was God (coach) ultimately responsible for the play’s success? Yes  That’s the closest I can take you in picturesque form in explaining the doctrine of reprobation without approaching the inaccessible territory of God’s mind, wisdom, and understanding | 20  We are not God, we are human  But here’s another one:  The Scriptures also give us another example  Prophet Micaiah saw God sitting on his throne in 1 Kings 22, and God asks the host of heaven to the left and to the right *Who will entice Ahab so that he will go up and fall at Ramoth-gilead?*’  And one by one an evil spirit (demons) come up to God and presents their devious plan  God finally chooses one He likes and says go and do that and entice him to sin  Pretty shocking right? You might think I’m making this up and calling it Scripture but I’m not. Look up 1 Kings 22 verses 19-23  But let’s take that same football analogy for doctrine of election (explain)  Master play “election” |
| 21  That’s what God did for you and me.  We = sit on sidelines watching as God does all the work for us from beginning to end = including creating the faith in our hearts to believe in Him  We excel at sinning but not at saving ourselves  In fact terrible at saving ourselves  And my dear brothers and sisters in Christ = if you forget everything “whoosh” = do not forget God’s love for you  The doctrine of election and reprobation should create in you’re a sense of wonder/amazement that God would ever love you enough to choose you and keep you forever in His arms despite how much you rebelled against Him  That He loved you enough that your salvation in Christ that nothing = condemn separate you from His love in Christ Jesus | 22  Exodus 20  Yes, God is “*a jealous God, visiting the iniquity of the fathers on the children, on the third and the fourth generations of those who hate Him, but (BUT) He shows lovingkindness (or mercy) to thousands, to those who love Me and keep My commandment*.”  Sovereign Lord = good/merciful God  He is not unrighteous, but righteous and He can make you righteous as well if you come to Jesus and cry out for His mercy  All those who come to the merciful Savior, He will in no ways cast out  So come to the wonderful, merciful Savior |