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## The Purpose of God According to Election

*Romans, Part XLIV*

Romans 9:6-13

Stuart W. Bryan

### I. A Tale of Two Jews (Acts 18:9-10)

Acts 18 reveals that God *had many people* in Corinth, not many *who had already come to faith* but many who *would come to faith* through Paul's preaching. So God commanded Paul to *speak boldly* so God could call them to faith. As Paul would remind Timothy, "*Therefore I endure all things for the sake of the elect, that they also may obtain the salvation which is in Christ Jesus with eternal glory*" (2 Tim 2:10).

#### Romans 9:6-13

<sup>6</sup>But it is not that the word of God has taken no effect. For they are not all Israel who are of Israel, <sup>7</sup>nor are they all children because they are the seed of Abraham; but, "In Isaac your seed shall be called." <sup>8</sup>That is, those who are the children of the flesh, these are not the children of God; but the children of the promise are counted as the seed. <sup>9</sup>For this is the word of promise: "At this time I will come and Sarah shall have a son." <sup>10</sup>And not only this, but when Rebecca also had conceived by one man, even by our father Isaac <sup>11</sup>(for the children not yet being born, nor having done any good or evil, that the purpose of God according to election might stand, not of works but of Him who calls), <sup>12</sup>it was said to her, "The older shall serve the younger." <sup>13</sup>As it is written, "Jacob I have loved, but Esau I have hated."

### II. Not all Israel are of Israel

A. God's Word has not Failed (6a)

B. Children of Flesh and Children of Promise (6b-9 cf. Gen 17:18-19; 18:10,14; 21:12)

Mere physical descent from Abraham has never been a guarantee of personal salvation. Salvation has always been centered around God's promises not human contrivances. Those who believe in His Name "*were born, not of blood, nor of the will of the flesh, nor of the will of man, but of \_\_\_\_\_*" (Jn 1:12-13 cf. Rom 2:28-29).

C. God's Sovereign Purpose (10-13)

Why doesn't the unbelief of individual Jews undermine the promises of God? Because God has never bound Himself to save every member of His visible people. Rather, God has sovereignly worked to save those He loved, like Jacob (cf. 8:29-30). The purposes of God stood firm in Jacob's life, and they also stand firm in the lives of all His \_\_\_\_\_.

### III. The Purpose of God According to Election

A. Election in the NT (Mt 11:25-26; Mk 4:10-12; Jn 6:41-45)

Paul was grieved that most of his kinsmen rejected Jesus as Messiah. So why is it that so many of them were blinded to Jesus' identity? Jesus Himself explains:

<sup>10</sup>But when [Jesus] was alone, those around Him with the twelve asked Him about the parable. <sup>11</sup>And He said to them, "*To you it has been given to know the mystery of the kingdom of God; but to those who are outside, all things come in parables, <sup>12</sup>so that 'Seeing they may see and not perceive, And hearing they may hear and not understand; Lest they should turn, And their sins be forgiven them.'*" (Mark 4:10-12)

Why did Jesus teach in parables? They served both to reveal and to \_\_\_\_\_.

<sup>25</sup>At that time Jesus answered and said, "I thank You, Father, Lord of heaven and earth, that You have hidden these things from the wise and prudent and have revealed them to babes. <sup>26</sup>Even so, Father, for so it seemed good in Your sight. (Mt 11:25-26)

The Father *hid these things from the wise and prudent and yet revealed them to babes.* Why? Jesus answers: <sup>41</sup>The Jews then complained about [Jesus], because He said, "I am the bread which came down from heaven." <sup>42</sup>And they said, "Is not this Jesus, the son of Joseph, whose father and mother we know? How is it then that He says, 'I have come down from heaven'?" <sup>43</sup>Jesus therefore answered and said to them, "Do not murmur among yourselves. <sup>44</sup>No one can come to Me unless the Father who sent Me draws him; and I will raise him up at the last day. <sup>45</sup>It is written in the prophets, 'And they shall all be taught by God.' Therefore everyone who has heard and learned from the Father comes to Me. (Jn 6:41ff)

## B. Conditional Election

All serious Christians have developed a doctrine of \_\_\_\_\_. It is not whether you have a doctrine of election but whether your doctrine of election is true to Scripture. So the key question is, "Why did God choose some and not others? Why does He draw some to faith and not others?"

One answer that has been given is called "conditional election", the belief that God chose some and rejected others based upon some condition they did or didn't meet. The most common version of this is that God chose people based on the condition of \_\_\_\_\_. This is called the foreknowledge view of election. But Paul repudiates this notion explicitly in 9:11-12. Jewish unbelief has neither changed nor thwarted God's purpose; rather, their unbelief reflects God's eternal purpose.

- 2 Tim 1:9 – [God] has saved us and called us with a holy calling, not according to our works, but according to His own purpose and grace which was given to us in Christ Jesus before time began...

If someone dies in unbelief, even if that someone is within the visible church, we must conclude that they were not elect. All God's elect come to faith in Jesus Christ. **They are not elect because they \_\_\_\_\_; they \_\_\_\_\_ because they are elect.**

## C. Unconditional Election (Eph 1:3ff; 2 Thes 2:13-14; 1 Jn 4:19)

Reformed theology insists that God's election is "unconditional" - God did not choose us based on something in us but based on His own sovereign purpose and love. God didn't choose His elect because He saw that we would love Him. No! He chose us and, therefore, we love Him.

- 2 Thes 2:13-14 - <sup>13</sup>But we are bound to give thanks to God always for you, brethren beloved by the Lord, because God from the beginning chose you for salvation through sanctification by the Spirit and belief in the truth, <sup>14</sup>to which He called you by our gospel, for the obtaining of the glory of our Lord Jesus Christ.
- Eph 1:3-5 - <sup>3</sup>Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places in Christ, <sup>4</sup>just as He chose us in Him before the foundation of the world, that we should be holy and without blame before Him in love, <sup>5</sup>having predestined us to adoption as sons by Jesus Christ to Himself, according to the good pleasure of His will,

So why is it that some follow God and others do not? Why do some choose to follow Christ while others do not? Is it because some are smarter or wiser or more spiritual than others? No! The reason is to be found God's \_\_\_\_\_ not our deserving.

## IV. Conclusion