

The Sovereignty of God

Romans 9:1-29

“Coming to terms with the doctrine of predestination requires a dramatic shift in our perspective. We emerge from the womb and progress through childhood viewing the universe with ourselves at the center. Then something wondrous happens at some point in the process of maturing—for most healthy adults, anyway. We suddenly realize that the world extends beyond the circle of our own horizon and that others see the same world from a different viewpoint. Soon, the universe no longer revolves around us, and we accept that our little circle is but a very small part of a much greater reality.

The same is true of salvation! We faithfully share God’s ‘plan of salvation’ with individuals—as we should—but we too often fail to appreciate that Christianity is not ‘all about us’; it’s about Him. If we are to proclaim the complete gospel of Jesus Christ, we must recognize and embrace God’s master plan of salvation. The almighty Creator is fulfilling His own agenda for His universe, which cannot be altered; therefore, those who have heard and accepted the plan of salvation have become a part of something much greater than themselves, even if they don’t realize it.” Chuck Swindoll

Rom. 3:10b-12

Ps. 115:3

- I. The fact that God foreknows, predestines and calls men and women unto salvation does not mean that we are not to have a passion to see the lost come to Christ. In fact, believers are the primary means God uses to call the elect to receive the gift of eternal life. Jesus himself said to his disciples, *“Go into the world and preach the good news to all creation. Whoever believes and is baptized will be saved, but whoever does not believe will be condemned” (Matt. 16:15-16).*

Rom. 9:1-5

1 Cor. 6:9-11

Jn. 1:1-2

Titus 2:13-14

- II.** God is not a respecter of persons, he does not choose someone for salvation based on their status or religious background. Instead, those he chooses by his sovereign will to be adopted into his family come from the spiritual seed of Abraham. They are the spiritual children of the promise, i.e., the Messiah, Jew and Gentile alike.

Rom. 9:6-13

Gal. 3:6-9

Gal. 3:29 *If you belong to Christ, then you are Abraham's seed, and heirs according to the promise.*

"The sovereignty of God means that He has total control of all things past, present and future. Nothing happens that is out of His knowledge and control. All things are either caused by Him or allowed by Him for His own purposes and through His perfect will and timing (Romans 11:36; 1 Corinthians 8:6). He is the only absolute and omnipotent ruler of the universe and is sovereign in creation, providence and redemption." gotquestions.org

- III.** Absolutely no one deserves salvation. That God would show kindness and mercy to anyone is an incredible thing considering the condition of our sinful, rebellious and defiant hearts toward him. Yet he does, and whom he chooses to show mercy to is his choice alone, man has nothing to do with it. Praise God that his kindness, mercy and patience has led us to repentance (**Rom. 2:4**).

Rom. 9:14-21

Exodus 33:18-19

Isa. 55:8

Isa. 64:8

"We should not think that God persuaded an unwilling, kind-hearted Pharaoh to be hard towards God and Israel. In hardening the heart of Pharaoh, God simply allowed Pharaoh's heart to pursue its natural inclination. Guzik

- IV.** God's purpose is showing great patience toward sinners throughout redemptive history is to bring to repentance those that he foreknew, predestined and called to be saved. Peter tells us that *"The Lord is not slow in keeping his promise, as some understand slowness. He is patient with you, not wanting anyone to perish, but everyone to come to repentance (2 Pe. 3:9).*

Rom. 9:22-29

"Peter is speaking of the elect in this passage— 'patient with you.' So those God is not willing to have perish are the elect, and the reason God seems to be delaying the return of Jesus Christ is to give time for all those whom he has elected to belong to Jesus Christ to be born, to hear the gospel, to repent of sin, and come to faith." Boice.