



WHEN IN ROMANS - PT. 2

Week 2 - Discussion Questions

SERMON SUMMARY

This sermon is about the challenging themes of divine sovereignty and election as presented in Romans 9. Our salvation is not based on our efforts or lineage but is entirely a result of God's sovereign choice. Pastor Chase highlights the difficult truth that God has the authority to do as He wills with His creation, which can be unsettling but ultimately points to His perfect nature and the assurance of His promises. The sermon also draws parallels with the story of Micaiah the prophet, illustrating the importance of holding fast to the truth of God's Word, regardless of our personal discomfort.

ICEBREAKER

- Have you ever had a moment when you realized you were not in control of a situation? How did that make you feel, and what did you learn from it?

PAUL'S USE OF THE OLD TESTAMENT. READ ROMANS 9:6-9

- What does it tell us about Paul's view of Scripture that he leans so heavily on Old Testament examples to explain the gospel?
- What does it say about the unity of Scripture that Paul can pull from Genesis to explain God's plan in the New Testament?
- How does seeing Paul rely on Scripture deepen your own confidence that the Bible is without error and completely reliable?



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WRESTLING WITH SOVEREIGNTY. *READ ROMANS 9:13-15*

- What emotions or reactions come up when you hear God say, "Jacob I loved, Esau I hated"? How do you reconcile that with God's justice and mercy?
- Why do you think it's easy to focus on the "hated" part of the verse while forgetting that anyone being saved is an act of pure grace?
- RC Sproul says many Christians affirm God's sovereignty in nature and law but struggle with His sovereignty in grace. Why do you think that's the case?

WRESTLING WITH GOD'S MYSTERY. *READ ROMANS 9:19-21*

- Why do you think it bothers us that we can't fully understand God's ways?
- What are the dangers of trying to "shrink God down" to something we can fully explain?
- Can you think of times in your life when you didn't understand what God was doing, but later saw His goodness?

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DIGGING DEEPER.

CONTEXT OF ROMANS 9:13 & MALACHI 1:2–3

When Paul quotes “Jacob I loved, but Esau I hated” (Mal. 1:2–3), he’s not just talking about two men but the nations that came from them. Jacob became Israel, God’s covenant people through whom His promises were carried. Esau became Edom, a nation often hostile toward Israel.

In Malachi’s day, God reminded Israel of His covenant love, contrasting His faithfulness to them (Jacob/Israel) with His judgment on Edom (Esau/Edom). Paul uses this to show in Romans 9 that God’s purposes in election rest on His will and calling, not on human effort, ancestry, or merit. Just as God’s covenant love rested on Israel because of God’s choice, salvation today rests on God’s mercy, not our works.

QUESTIONS

- In both Malachi and Romans, God’s choice is not based on human merit but His own purposes. How does that stretch your understanding of fairness and justice?
- How does holding Malachi 1 and Romans 9 together deepen our grasp of God’s covenant love and His absolute freedom to choose?
- How can understanding God’s sovereignty bring peace and purpose to our lives, especially in difficult circumstances?