

Romans 9:14-33
“Deal or No Deal?”

~ INTRO ~

THE LAST TIME WE WERE TOGETHER...

- We read about the benefits of faith...
 - That were given to Israel.

The Seven Benefits – (Rom. 9:4-5)

- 1) *Israelites*
- 2) *Adoption*
- 3) *Glory*
- 4) *Covenants*
- 5) *The law*
- 6) *The service of God*
- 7) *The promises*

GOD CHOSE ISRAEL...

- Out of all the other nations in the world...
 - And it was NOT based on...
 - What they had done OR didn't do.

TODAY...

- We dive into an easily-misunderstood section / topic...
 - Known as ***election*** – (also referred to as ***predestination***).
- Sometimes these two words can be used interchangeably...
 - BUT they do have specific qualities.

FOR EXAMPLE:

- ***Election*** = God's choice of people for salvation.
- ***Predestination*** = God's predetermined plan and purpose.

(2 Peter 3:15-16) NLT

Charles Swindoll –

“I will admit this section of Pauls' letter to the Romans contains mysteries I have no ability to unravel.”

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SO... HERE’S HOW WE’RE GOING TO NAVIGATE THIS.
- I’m going to reduce the complexity into 4-basic ideas.

IDEA #1 – ELECTION BEGINS WITH GOD’S CHOICE:

(vv.9-13) God chose Isaac & Jacob... above Ismael & Esau.

- *Hating* in ancient eastern culture...
 - Was about priority of choice...
 - Not an angry emotion

(Mal 1:2-3) NKJV

HERE’S HOW WE CAN CAPTURE IT...

- (Matt 10:37) NKJV
 - The **priority** of Christ is to be first in your life...
 - Above all other relationships.

IN (Micah 7:6-7) NKJV

- Sin broke down the family unit...
 - But restoration was found in God.
 - So we put Him first.

(1 John 4:19-21) NLT

IDEA #2 – ELECTION SHOWS GOD’S CHARACTER:

(vv.14-18) BECAUSE GRACE IS A GIFT...

- Only the giver has the right to offer OR withhold the gift.
 - There’s no way to earn it.
- God demonstrates grace & mercy in two men’s lives...
 - (Pharaoh & Moses).

BOTH MEN...

- Had an opportunity for a humble response...
 - And scripture shows God responding to each man’s choice.
- Moses responded in humility (Ex. 3:4) NKJV
 - Pharaoh did not (Ex. 5:2) NKJV

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- Pharaoh’s *freewill* choices made his heart hard...
 - And God just reinforced what Pharaoh chose.
 - (Ex. 4:21) NKJV
 - (Ex. 9:16) NKJV
 - (Ex. 9:34) NKJV

IDEA #3 – ELECTION SHOWS GOD’S MERCY:

(vv.19-22)

- God has the right to mold clay into anything He chooses...
 - But He allowed Pharaoh to choose his own shape.
- God ONLY made firm Pharaoh’s decisions.

THIS VERSE IN THE ORIGINAL LANGUAGE...

- Is a responsive word...
 - To a repetition of choices made.

IN OTHER WORDS...

- God responds to all the choices an individual makes...
 - To reject Him in their life.

HERE’S THE POINT...

- The mercy of God is longsuffering...
 - He wants all to be saved (1 Tim 2:4) NLT

BUT...

- God gives room for every person to make their own choice.

IDEA #4 – ELECTION SHOWS GOD’S FAIRNESS:

(vv.23-24)

GOD USES THE PASSING OF TIME...

- To separate the Elect from the Non-Elect...
- The vast majority of people are in rebellion to God...
 - But... there are many that will one day be saved.
- Think about the time it took for you to come to faith in Christ.
 - This is exactly why God is still patience.

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THIS IS THE FAIRNESS OF GOD.

(vv.25-29)

THIS IS A HISTORY LESSON...

- On the Northern & Southern Kingdoms:

Israel = The Northern Kingdom (Hosea prophesied here).

Judah = The Southern Kingdom (Isaiah prophesied here).

Both were caught up in rebelling against God (except for small remnants).

- And God was faithful to save those small portions...
 - That responded by faith to Him.

~ IN CLOSING ~

(vv.30-33)

PAUL EXPANDS GOD’S MERCY HERE...

- To include Gentiles who received Jesus **by faith**.

BUT...

- Others will reject His offer over and over...
 - And their hearts will grow cold & hard to spiritual truth.

“Deal or No Deal”

- Will you trade your sin for salvation today?

THE BIBLE SAYS...

- (Rom. 10:13) NKJV
- (2 Cor. 6:1-2) NLT
- (Matt 11:28-30) NLT

IF THERE’S ANYONE ON THE FENCE...

- About faith in Jesus and accepting what He offers.
 - (2 Cor. 5:20-21) NLT