

God’s Amazing Grace – Part 5

Election – Part 2

God's Purpose In Election

Romans 9:11 though they were not yet born and had done nothing either good or bad- in order that **God's purpose of election** might continue, not because of works but because of his call-

It is important for us to understand that the doctrine (biblical truth and teaching) of election does not keep anyone out of heaven, rather it admits people to heaven. If there was no election all would continue as children of disobedience under the wrath of God (Eph. 5:6).

This doctrine does not make the number of people who could possibly be saved less, because there is no-one who would be saved apart from God's great mercy and grace in election. This doctrine does not make the number any less than many others who even deny it due to ignorance. The doctrine of election still agrees that everyone who truly repents and believes will be saved. The only difference is not the number, but the source (what makes/moves a person to repent and believe). This biblical doctrine teaches that God is the source, the selector, and the Savior, not man. Let's sit and learn from the Scriptures.

Romans 9 is one of the most *difficult passages* in the Scriptures. Some would say that you should not use "difficult" passages to teach doctrine. I would generally agree that *we should not use a passages that are difficult to interpret or unclear to establish doctrines*, but Romans 9 does not fit because it is easy to understand, *but it is difficult for many to accept*. It is one of the most difficult passages for people to accept yet it is a very clear and simple passage to understand.

We find it confusing not because we don't understand what is being says, but because we don't understand how it could possibly be true. Now, rather than playing games with human evaluation, we must determine what is said and meant in the Bible and then acknowledge it as true even if we have difficulty accepting it in our minds. Let us learn...

The purpose of Romans 9 is to teach about **election**. God graciously made the teaching very plain and clear here in this passage and throughout His word. Let us take a walk through the Scriptures and see God's lesson to us on His sovereign election. God elected specific people and a specific nation for specific purposes throughout the Bible, but after looking at how these "elections" demonstrate God's sovereign choice, we will focus on the texts that teach about individual election unto salvation.

God elected (chose) Abraham.

Nehemiah 9:7 You are the LORD, the God who chose Abram and brought him out of Ur of the Chaldeans and gave him the name Abraham.

Usually we don't stop to ask why? We just assume that Abraham was better than the rest of the people and deserved to be chosen. Though it is true that in his life following (after) God's calling he may have been better than the rest (very imperfectly), there is nothing to indicate that he was better before, but rather was just like the rest. Granted, there is nothing in Scripture about Abram before his calling and so many think they can rest election on the goodness of Abraham rather than the grace of God. If Abram earned, deserved or merited in any way the word should not be "chose" but "rewarded". It

does not say God chose “to do something” for Abram but God chose Abram. See this clearly what God does follows to/for them follows His choice of them.

God elected (chose) Isaac.

Romans 9:7 and not all are children of Abraham because they are his offspring, but "Through Isaac shall your offspring be named."

Abraham had another son 13 years earlier, Ishmael. Both were the children of Abraham, but one was chosen and the other was not. God's sovereign choice! Still some would argue that his first son born from an Egyptian (Hagar) was not a Jew and this is why he was not chosen. Let me remind you that at this point, there were no Jews. The Israelites or Jews were not yet a nation or ethnic community and God could have easily used a Chaldean (Abram) and an Egyptian (Hagar) rather than two Chaldeans (Sara). Oddly, Abram and Sara were half brother and sister (same father, different mothers. Gen 20:12).

God elected (chose) Jacob.

To put a final end to all of man's foolish reasoning and faulty speculation -- God chose Jacob.

Romans 9:10-13 ¹⁰ And not only so, but also when Rebecca had conceived children by one man, our forefather Isaac, ¹¹ though they were not yet born and had done nothing either good or bad- in order that God's purpose of election might continue, not because of works but because of his call- ¹² she was told, "The older will serve the younger." ¹³ As it is written, "Jacob I loved, but Esau I hated."

Here they are twins. They have the same mother and the same father. In order that people would not claim the choice on the basis of birth right, God chose the younger. In order that people would not claim choice on the basis of virtue or merit God chose before they were born and his choice had nothing to do with anything good or bad in them or good or bad that they would yet do.

Well then what was the choice based upon? According to the above verse, "God's purpose in election."

God elects (chooses) who will be saved. This is a passage about “election” explained historically and explains how it applies to true “salvation” in Christ.

Romans 9:16 ¹⁶ So then it depends not on human will or exertion, but on God, who has mercy.

A man is not saved by his desire to be saved. A man is not saved by his effort to be saved. The only people who will be saved are those who God sets his mercy upon. (see also John 1:12-13)

Then who are those that God's chooses to be mercifully to? Whoever He wants/selects!

Romans 9:18 ¹⁸ So then he has mercy on whomever he wills, and he hardens whomever he wills.

Romans 9:22-24 ²² What if God, desiring to show his wrath and to make known his power, has endured with much patience **vessels of wrath prepared for destruction**, ²³ in order to make known the riches of his glory for **vessels of mercy**, which he has **prepared beforehand for glory**- ²⁴ even us whom he has called, not from the Jews only but also from the Gentiles?

Romans 9:24-26 ²⁴ even us whom he has called, not from the Jews only but also from the Gentiles? ²⁵ As indeed he says in Hosea, "Those who were not my people I will call 'my people,' and her who was not beloved I will call 'beloved.'" ²⁶ "And in the very place where it was said to them, 'You are not my people,' there they will be called 'sons of the living God.'"

Now let’s work through these things a little...

I am not saying that people do not need to repent and believe. We must repent and we must believe, God does not do this for us. We have to make real choices and take real actions. Nevertheless such choices and actions (like repentance, faith, etc.) which lead to salvation are not and cannot be made by dead people (spiritually). God in his selective mercy must make us alive (Eph. 2:4-5; Col. 2:13). The fruit (result or consequence) of this new life is faith and repentance. These are the results of grace and mercy not the reward or recompense. Grace and mercy are undeserved. Remember if we were given what we deserve it would be nothing but judgment, condemnation and eternal punishment (those who disagree with this do so only because they deny (or don’t know) the Scriptures and as a result do not comprehend the holiness of God and the severity of the offence of sin and the effect of Adam’s sin upon all mankind).

Everyone who truly repents and truly believes will be saved!

Who will repent? Who will believe? Only those elected (chosen or appointed) by God.

God Chose... (Let's walk though the Word, but we can only put some of the passages here. There are far too many for us to list in this lesson)

Acts 2:39 ³⁹ For the promise is for you and for your children and for all who are far off, everyone whom **the Lord our God calls** (προσκαλέσεται – summons, appoints, calls) **to himself.**"

Acts 13:48 And when the Gentiles heard this, they began rejoicing and glorifying the word of the Lord, and **as many as were appointed** (τεταγμένοι-ordained, assigned) **to eternal life believed.**

Ephesians 1:4-6 ⁴ even as **he chose us in him before the foundation of the world**, that we should be holy and blameless before him. In love ⁵ **he predestined us for adoption through Jesus Christ, according to the purpose of his will,** ⁶ **to the praise of his glorious grace**, with which he has blessed us in the Beloved.

2 Thessalonians 2:13 ¹³ But we ought always to give thanks to God for you, brothers beloved by the Lord, **because God chose you** as the first fruits to be saved, through sanctification by the Spirit and belief in the truth.

2 Timothy 2:10 ¹⁰ Therefore I endure everything for the sake of **the elect**, that they also may obtain the salvation that is in Christ Jesus with eternal glory.

Titus 1:1-2 Paul, a servant of God and an apostle of Jesus Christ, for the sake of **the faith of God's elect** and their knowledge of the truth, which accords with godliness, ² in hope of eternal life, which God, who never lies, promised before the ages began

James 2:5 ⁵ Listen, my beloved brothers, has not **God chosen** those who are poor in the world to be rich in faith and heirs of the kingdom, which he has promised to those who love him?

1 Peter 1:1-3 Peter, an apostle of Jesus Christ, **To those who are elect** exiles of the dispersion in Pontus, Galatia, Cappadocia, Asia, and Bithynia, ² according to the foreknowledge of God the Father, in the sanctification of the Spirit, for obedience to Jesus Christ and for sprinkling with his blood: May grace and peace be multiplied to you. ³ Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! According to his great mercy, he has caused us to be born again to a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead,

1 Corinthians 1:27-31 ²⁷ But **God chose** what is foolish in the world to shame the wise; **God chose** what is weak in the world to shame the strong; ²⁸ **God chose** what is low and despised in the world, even things that are not, to bring to nothing things that are, ²⁹ so that no human being might boast in the presence of God. ³⁰ **He is the source of your life in Christ Jesus**, whom God made our wisdom and our righteousness and sanctification and redemption. ³¹ Therefore, as it is written, "Let the one who boasts, boast in the Lord."

When did He choose?

Before we did anything -

Romans 9:11 ¹¹ though they were not yet born and had done nothing either good or bad- in order that God's purpose of election might continue, not because of works but because of his call-

Before anyone did anything, before creation -

Ephesians 1:4 even as he chose us in him before the foundation of the world, that we should be holy and blameless before him. In love ⁵ he predestined us for adoption through Jesus Christ, according to the purpose of his will,

2 Timothy 1:9 who saved us and called us to a holy calling, not because of our works but because of his own purpose and grace, which he gave us in Christ Jesus before the ages began,

Revelation 13:8 and all who dwell on earth will worship it, everyone whose name has not been written before the foundation of the world in the book of life of the Lamb that was slain.

Ephesians 2:10 ¹⁰ For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand, that we should walk in them.

Revelation 17:8 ⁸ The beast that you saw was, and is not, and is about to rise from the bottomless pit and go to destruction. And the dwellers on earth whose names have not been written in the book of life from the foundation of the world will marvel to see the beast, because it was and is not and is to come.

Revelation 21:27 ²⁷ But nothing unclean will ever enter it, nor anyone who does what is detestable or false, but only those who are written in the Lamb's book of life.

What is the basis of His choice?

Nothing in us or in what we do -

Romans 4:2 For if Abraham was justified by works, he has something to boast about, but not before God. (by grace through faith in Christ we are saved and justified. Yet true saving/justifying faith produces works [James 2] otherwise it is NOT the faith that is the gift of God but a false, fleshly and futile *faith*)

Romans 9:16 ¹⁶ So then it depends not on human will or exertion, but on God, who has mercy.

Titus 3:5 ⁵ he saved us, not because of works done by us in righteousness, but according to his own mercy, by the washing of regeneration and renewal of the Holy Spirit,

Ephesians 2:8-9 ⁸ For by grace you have been saved through faith. And this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God, ⁹ not a result of works, so that no one may boast.

Romans 11:6 But if it is by grace, it is no longer on the basis of works; otherwise grace would no longer be grace.

But according to His purpose, according to His will -

Romans 9:16-18 ¹⁶ So then it depends not on human will or exertion, but on God, who has mercy...¹⁸ So then he has mercy on **whomever he wills**, and he hardens **whomever he wills**.

Ephesians 1:5-12 ⁵ he predestined us for adoption through Jesus Christ, according to the purpose of his will... ⁹ making known to us the mystery of his will, **according to his purpose**, which he set forth in Christ... ¹¹ In him we have obtained an inheritance, having been **predestined according to the purpose of him** who works all things according to the counsel of his will, ¹² so that we who were the first to hope in Christ might be **to the praise of his glory**.

Isaiah 46:10-11 ¹⁰ declaring the end from the beginning and from ancient times things not yet done, saying, 'My counsel shall stand, and I will accomplish all my purpose,' ¹¹ calling a bird of prey from the east, the man of my counsel [NAS "The man of My purpose from a far country."] from a far country. I have spoken, and I will bring it to pass; I have purposed, and I will do it.

2 Timothy 1:9 who saved us and called us to a holy calling, not because of our works but **because of his own purpose and grace**, which he gave us in Christ Jesus before the ages began,

To display His Character and Attributes to the praise of his Glory Rom. 9:22-24

Ephesians 1:6-14 **to the praise of his glorious grace**, with which he has blessed us in the Beloved...¹² so that we who were the first to hope in Christ might be **to the praise of his glory**...¹⁴ who is the guarantee of our inheritance until we acquire possession of it, **to the praise of his glory**.

What if this is hard to accept?

Even if we don't like it or understand it -

Romans 9:19-21 ¹⁹ You will say to me then, "Why does he still find fault? For who can resist his will?" ²⁰ But who are you, O man, to answer back to God? Will what is molded say to its molder, "Why have you made me like this?" ²¹ Has the potter no right over the clay, to make out of the same lump one vessel for honored use and another for dishonorable use?

Romans 11:34-36 ³⁴ "For who has known the mind of the Lord, or who has been his counselor?" ³⁵ "Or who has given a gift to him that he might be repaid?" ³⁶ For from him and through him and to him are all things. To him be glory forever. Amen.

Isaiah 40:13-14 ¹³ Who has measured the Spirit of the LORD, or what man shows him his counsel? ¹⁴ Whom did he consult, and who made him understand? Who taught him the path of justice, and taught him knowledge, and showed him the way of understanding?

We have seen that the Bible, God’s Word, repeatedly teaches that God chose or elected some (not all) to salvation. For many this is a frightening prospect, but when rightly considered we realize that it should, in fact, be comforting. Not only should but this eternal unchanging truth IS a great comfort to those who have, by grace, been saved. Had God not chosen some for salvation, nobody who ever lived would have repented and been saved. Let’s just look at a few crucial verses to remind us:

Romans 3:10-12 ¹⁰ as it is written: "None is righteous, no, not one; ¹¹ no one understands; no one seeks for God. ¹² All have turned aside; together they have become worthless; no one does good, not even one." (*this is said to refer to "Jews and Gentiles alike are all under sin."* Vs.9)

Therefore left in the natural condition of man, dead in sin, this spiritual death make us unworthy, unwilling and unable to come.

Colossians 2:13 ¹³ And you, who were dead in your trespasses and the uncircumcision of your flesh, God made alive together with him, having forgiven us all our trespasses,

Though unworthy and hostile (Rom. 8:7-8) God takes some of those who are dead in their sinful nature and makes them alive in Christ, forgiving our sins. It is this work of God, the making alive (regeneration/rebirth/renewal/new creation/born again/born of God - Titus 3:5; John 1:13; John 3:3, 7; 2 Cor. 5:17; Gal. 5:6 etc.) that brings about repentance and faith. The natural result of spiritual life is faith and repentance just like the natural result of physical life is a beating heart and breathing lungs. We don't decide to exercise our heart or lungs in order to become alive. Those who are alive evidence the life in them by having circulating blood and a supply of oxygen without which they are dead. Life does not come to us physically by deciding to start a heart beat or oxygen supply, with the ‘gift’ of life these are "gifts" that come as part of the natural result of life. They show us that the person is living.

Faith / Belief is a gift of God (Eph. 2:8-9; Philippians 1:29; Rom. 12:3)

Repentance is granted by God (Acts 11:18; 2 Timothy 2:25)

These are specifically given to the chosen, elect or saints...

Colossians 1:26-27 ²⁶ the mystery hidden for ages and generations but now **revealed to his saints.** ²⁷ **To them God chose to make known** how great among the Gentiles are the riches of the glory of this mystery, **which is Christ in you**, the hope of glory.

Titus 1:1 Paul, a servant of God and an apostle of Jesus Christ, **for the sake of the faith of God's elect and their knowledge of the truth**, which accords with godliness,

To some it is given but others are passed by or hardened...

Luke 10:21-22 ²¹ In that same hour he rejoiced in the Holy Spirit and said, "I thank you, Father, Lord of heaven and earth, that **you have hidden these things** from the wise and understanding and **revealed them** to little children; yes, Father, for such was your gracious will. ²² All things have been handed over

to me by my Father, and **no one knows** who the Son is except the Father, or who the Father is except the Son and anyone **to whom the Son chooses to reveal him.**" (also in Mt. 11:25-27)

John 12:37-40 ³⁷ Though he had done so many signs before them, they still **did not believe in him,** ³⁸ so that the word spoken by the prophet Isaiah might be fulfilled: "Lord, who has believed what he heard from us, and to whom has the arm of the Lord been revealed?" ³⁹ Therefore they **could not believe.** For again Isaiah said, ⁴⁰ "He has blinded their eyes and hardened their heart, lest they see with their eyes, and understand with their heart, and turn, and I would heal them." (*God's plan and condemnation grants blinding permission is the reason, Satan is the agent of this blinding 2 Cor. 4:4*)

Matthew 13:10-14 ¹⁰ Then the disciples came and said to him, "Why do you speak to them in parables?" ¹¹ And he answered them, "**To you it has been given to know the secrets of the kingdom of heaven, but to them it has not been given...**" ¹³ This is why I speak to them in parables, because seeing they do not see, and hearing they do not hear, nor do they understand. ¹⁴ Indeed, in their case the prophecy of Isaiah is fulfilled that says: "You will indeed hear but never understand, and you will indeed see but never perceive."

Romans 11:5-8 ⁵ So too at the present time there is a **remnant, chosen by grace.** ⁶ But if it is by grace, it is no longer on the basis of works; otherwise grace would no longer be grace. ⁷ What then? Israel failed to obtain what it was seeking. **The elect obtained it, but the rest were hardened,** ⁸ as it is written, "God gave them a spirit of stupor, eyes that would not see and ears that would not hear, down to this very day."

Proverbs 16:4 ⁴ The LORD has made everything for its purpose, even the wicked for the day of trouble.

1 Peter 2:7-8 ⁷ So the honor is for you who believe, but for those who do not believe, "The stone that the builders rejected has become the cornerstone," ⁸ and "A stone of stumbling, and a rock of offense." They stumble because they disobey the word, as they were destined to do.

1 Corinthians 1:18 ¹⁸ For the word of the cross is folly to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God...²³ but we preach Christ crucified, a stumbling block to Jews and folly to Gentiles, ²⁴ but to **those who are called,** both Jews and Greeks, Christ the power of God and the wisdom of God.

Romans 9:22-24 ²² What if God, desiring to show his wrath and to make known his power, has endured with much patience vessels of wrath prepared for destruction, ²³ in order to make known the riches of his glory for vessels of mercy, which he has prepared beforehand for glory- ²⁴ even us whom he has called, not from the Jews only but also from the Gentiles?

2 Thessalonians 2:11-14 ¹¹ Therefore God sends them a strong delusion, so that they may believe what is false, ¹² **in order that all may be condemned who did not believe the truth but had pleasure in unrighteousness.** ¹³ But we ought always to give thanks to God for you, brothers beloved by the Lord, because **God chose you** as the first fruits **to be saved,** through sanctification by the Spirit and belief in the truth. ¹⁴ To this he called you through our gospel, so that you may obtain the glory of our Lord Jesus Christ.