

Lecture 8- Election: God's Sovereign Glory, Prayer, Evangelism and Romans 9:22-10:21

*All Bible references are from NASB unless noted otherwise.

Review of Previous Lectures

Lecture 1- 2 Peter 1:10 (Eph 4:1). Every Bible-believing Christian must affirm predestination and election. It is in the Bible. How they define the doctrine differs between believers and even scholars.

Lecture 2- God is sovereign. He rules from heaven and no one can thwart His rulership. Even man's so called free will cannot thwart God's supreme rulership as seen in Scripture.

Lecture 3- Free will or free agency in the Bible is evident, but the defining description of this free will is that it is not libertarian free will. It is an enslaved will that needs to be freed. Mankind makes willful choices from the preceding desires of their heart. God is able and does influence mankind's desires to accomplish His purposes. This includes restraining sin (Gen 20:6) or hardening hearts (Rom 9:18; 11:7, 25) amongst many other things as we saw in this lecture.

Lecture 4- Jesus taught clearly that man is unable to come to Him unless the Father draws Him (John 6:44-45, 65). Only those who are given to Jesus by the Father will come and be saved (John 6:37; 17).

Lecture 5- The Bible is replete that mankind is dead, enslaved, by nature children of wrath and do not seek after God out of their own capacities. Some scholars posit that prevenient grace is given as a remedy to neutralize the inability of mankind, but was found without Biblical evidence.

Lecture 6- God clearly has a decree/plan and purpose in our world for all things (including salvation). He is not absent and is working all things according to the counsel of His own will (Eph 1:11).

Lecture 7- One of the ways God is keeping His Word to Israel (and humanity) is through the principle of sovereign election which can be defined as God electing and predestining individuals from eternity past based on His choice alone. This choice is not based on the good or evil foreseen by God, nor does this election involve the will or works of man, but of God's choice alone (9:11, 16). This principle was at work in OT times and is currently at work in NT times as God is actively and mercifully saving those whom He has called (the remnant from both Jews and Gentiles) while hardening others according to His own sovereign purpose and for the sake of glorifying His own name.

The Supremacy of God's Glory

Ephesians 1:6 to the **praise of the glory of His grace**, which He freely bestowed on us in the Beloved.

Ephesians 1:12 to the end that we who were the first to hope in Christ would be to the **praise of His glory**.

Ephesians 1:14 who is given as a pledge of our inheritance, with a view to the redemption of *God's own* possession, to the **praise of His glory**.

Ephesians 1:17 that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the **Father of glory**, may give to you a spirit of wisdom and of revelation in the knowledge of Him.

Ephesians 1:18 *I pray that* the eyes of your heart may be enlightened, so that you will know what is the hope of His calling, what are the **riches of the glory of His inheritance** in the saints,

Ephesians 3:16 that He would grant you, according to the **riches of His glory**, to be strengthened with power through His Spirit in the inner man,

Ephesians 3:21 to Him *be the glory* in the church and in Christ Jesus to all generations forever and ever. Amen.

Romans 9:23 And *He did so* to **make known the riches of His glory** upon vessels of mercy, which He prepared beforehand for glory.

Romans 11:36 For from Him and through Him and to Him are all things. **To Him be the glory forever**. Amen.

Romans 9:17 For the scripture says to Pharaoh: "**For this very purpose** I have raised you up, that I may **demonstrate my power in you**, and that **my name may be proclaimed in all the earth**." (NET)

Exodus 20:5 "You shall not worship them or serve them; for I, the LORD your God, am a **jealous God**, visiting the iniquity of the fathers on the children, on the third and the fourth generations of those who hate Me.

Exodus 34:14 -- for you shall not worship any other god, for the LORD, **whose name is Jealous, is a jealous God**.

Deuteronomy 32:21 They have **made Me jealous with what is not God**; They have provoked Me to anger with their idols. So I will make them jealous with *those who* are not a people; I will provoke them to anger with a foolish nation.

Ezekiel 39:25 Therefore thus says the Lord GOD, "Now I will restore the fortunes of Jacob and have mercy on the whole house of Israel; and I will be **jealous for My holy name**.

1 Corinthians 10:31 Whether, then, you eat or drink or whatever you do, do **all to the glory of God**.

How is God's principle of election in choosing a remnant working in the current era of church history?

Romans 9:22-29

²²What if God, although willing to demonstrate **His wrath** and to **make His power known**, endured with much patience **vessels of wrath** prepared for **destruction**?

²³And *He did so* to **make known** the **riches of His glory** upon **vessels of mercy**, which He prepared beforehand for **glory**,

²⁴**even us**, whom He also **called**, not from among Jews only, but also from among Gentiles.

²⁵As He says also in Hosea, "I WILL CALL THOSE WHO WERE NOT MY PEOPLE, 'MY PEOPLE,' AND HER WHO WAS NOT BELOVED, 'BELOVED.'" [Hosea 2:23]

²⁶"AND IT SHALL BE THAT IN THE PLACE WHERE IT WAS SAID TO THEM, 'YOU ARE NOT MY PEOPLE,' THERE THEY SHALL BE CALLED SONS OF THE LIVING GOD." [Hosea 1:10]

²⁷¶ Isaiah cries out concerning Israel, "THOUGH THE NUMBER OF THE SONS OF ISRAEL BE LIKE THE SAND OF THE SEA, IT IS THE **REMNANT** THAT WILL BE SAVED; [cf. Isaiah 10:22-23; 28:22; Hosea 1:10]

²⁸**FOR THE LORD WILL EXECUTE HIS WORD ON THE EARTH, THOROUGHLY AND QUICKLY."**

²⁹And just as Isaiah foretold, "UNLESS THE LORD OF SABAOOTH HAD LEFT TO US A POSTERITY [remnant], WE WOULD HAVE BECOME LIKE SODOM, AND WOULD HAVE RESEMBLED GOMORRAH." [Isaiah 1:9]

- God's actions are always directed towards magnifying His glory and attributes perfectly.
- The contrasting facets of God's glory are displayed through wrath (like Pharaoh- 9:17 and other vessels of wrath- 9:22) and vessels of mercy. He can mercy or harden according to His own purpose (9:18) and glory.
- The US of v. 24 are those whom He called, but are from all nations, not Jews only.
- The remnant principle is active, but is reversed in its expectation that very few Jews are being chosen/called in lieu of throngs of Gentiles becoming children of God. Aren't you thankful?

What has God ordained to be the instrument in people coming to salvation?

Romans 9:30-10:4

³⁰What shall we say then? That Gentiles, who did not pursue righteousness, attained righteousness, even the righteousness which is **by faith**;

³¹but Israel, pursuing a law of righteousness, did not arrive at *that* law.

³²Why? Because *they did not pursue it by faith*, but as though *it were* by works. They stumbled over the stumbling stone, ³³just as it is written, "BEHOLD, I LAY IN ZION A STONE OF STUMBLING AND A ROCK OF OFFENSE, AND HE WHO **BELIEVES** IN HIM WILL NOT BE DISAPPOINTED." [Isaiah 28:16; 8:14; cf. Matt 21:42-22]

^{10:1}Brethren, my heart's desire and my prayer to God for them is for *their* salvation.

²For I testify about them that they have a zeal for God, but not in accordance with knowledge.

³For not knowing about God's righteousness and seeking to establish their own, they did not subject themselves to the righteousness of God.

⁴For Christ is the end [goal] of the law for righteousness to everyone who **believes**.

- God's calling not only includes the ends (glorification), but also the means (faith) (cf. Eph 2:8-9; Phil 1:29).
- Most of Israel (not all) is still unsaved because they refuse to accept God's ordained plan of righteousness by faith. Instead they seek to establish their own righteousness through works and the law of Moses.
- They are not submitting themselves to God's plan and it has become a rock of offense.
- The law of Moses points to Christ and is no longer required for those that put their faith in Jesus.
- Believing in Jesus through God's calling gives all the glory to Him. Works seeks to give glory to man.

What does it take to be saved?

Romans 10:5-13

⁵For Moses writes that the man who practices the righteousness which is based on law shall live by that righteousness.

⁶ But the righteousness based on faith speaks as follows: "DO NOT SAY IN YOUR HEART, 'WHO WILL ASCEND INTO HEAVEN?' (that is, to bring Christ down), [Deuteronomy 9:4; 30:12]

⁷ or 'WHO WILL DESCEND INTO THE ABYSS?' (that is, to bring Christ up from the dead)." [Deut 30:13]

⁸ But what does it say? "THE WORD IS NEAR YOU, IN YOUR MOUTH AND IN YOUR HEART "-- that is, the word of faith which we are preaching, [Deut 30:14]

⁹ that if you confess with your mouth Jesus *as* Lord, and believe in your heart that God raised Him from the dead, you will be saved;

¹⁰ for with the heart a person believes, resulting in righteousness, and with the mouth he confesses, resulting in salvation.

¹¹ For the Scripture says, "WHOEVER BELIEVES IN HIM WILL NOT BE DISAPPOINTED." [Isaiah 28:16]

¹² For there is no distinction between Jew and Greek; for the same *Lord* is Lord of all, abounding in riches for all who call on Him;

¹³ for "WHOEVER WILL CALL ON THE NAME OF THE LORD WILL BE SAVED." [Joel 2:32]

- Deut 9:4-8 references that God's choice/election of Israel was based on His promises and not on their righteousness. In fact, they are a stiff-necked people. (cf. Deut 7:6-8)
- The Mosaic law provided forgiveness by faith in the sacrifices. That system is now over because Jesus' sacrifice was the full and final payment for sin (Heb 10:1-4). Anyone wanting to follow Moses has to do it perfectly to obtain righteousness because there is now no sacrificial mechanism to receive forgiveness under that law.
- Righteousness based on faith is 100% God. Can you effectively bring Jesus down from heaven? Can you raise Him from the dead? GOD CAN!
- Salvation comes from faith in Jesus to anyone who calls upon Him.

What is the process that God has ordained for His elect in order for them to respond in faith?

Romans 10:14-21

¹⁴How then will they **call** on Him in whom they have not **believed**? How will they **believe** in Him whom they have not **heard**? And **how will they hear without a preacher**?

¹⁵ How will they preach unless they are sent? Just as it is written, "HOW BEAUTIFUL ARE THE FEET OF THOSE WHO BRING GOOD NEWS OF GOOD THINGS!" [Isaiah 52:7; Nahum 1:5]

¹⁶ However, they did not all heed the good news; for Isaiah says, "LORD, WHO HAS BELIEVED OUR REPORT?" [Isaiah 53:1]

¹⁷ So **faith comes** from hearing, and hearing by the word of Christ.

¹⁸ But I say, surely they have never heard, have they? Indeed they have; "THEIR VOICE HAS GONE OUT INTO ALL THE EARTH, AND THEIR WORDS TO THE ENDS OF THE WORLD." [Psalm 19:4]

¹⁹ But I say, surely Israel did not know, did they? First Moses says, "I WILL MAKE YOU JEALOUS BY THAT WHICH IS NOT A NATION, BY A NATION WITHOUT UNDERSTANDING WILL I ANGER YOU." [Deut 32:21]

²⁰ And Isaiah is very bold and says, "I WAS FOUND BY THOSE WHO DID NOT SEEK ME, I BECAME MANIFEST TO THOSE WHO DID NOT ASK FOR ME." [Isaiah 65:1]

²¹ But as for Israel He says, "ALL THE DAY LONG I HAVE STRETCHED OUT MY HANDS TO A DISOBEDIENT AND OBSTINATE PEOPLE." [Isaiah 65:2]

- God has ordained and predestined salvation for His elect, but He has also ordained that in order for the elect to become saved, they must express faith, but in order to express faith, they need to hear the gospel and in order for them to hear the gospel God has ordained preachers. God ordains evangelism and prayer!
- The disbelieving and rejection of the gospel that brings righteousness by faith by the majority of Jewish people was not a surprise to God (10:16; Isaiah 53:1).

- Even though faith comes by hearing and that hearing is the gospel of Jesus, even those within Israel or the rest of the world have already heard about God (10:18; Psalm 19:4) and are therefore without excuse (Rom 1:20).
- God's sovereignty is again highlighted in that God was found by those who weren't even seeking Him. These Gentile people that God chose were going to be used by Him to provoke Israel to jealousy because they are disobedient and obstinate.

Does belief in Election and God's Predestination Make Prayer/Evangelism Unnecessary?

Daniel 9:1 In the first year of Darius the son of Ahasuerus, of Median descent, who was made king over the kingdom of the Chaldeans-- ² in the first year of his reign, I, Daniel, observed in the books the number of the years which was *revealed as* the word of the LORD to Jeremiah the prophet for the completion of the desolations of Jerusalem, *namely*, seventy years. ³ So I gave my attention to the Lord God to seek *Him* by prayer and supplications, with fasting, sackcloth and ashes.

- See all of Daniel 9:1-19 for his full prayer for the restoration of Jerusalem and the people.
- Jeremiah 25:11-12; 29:10 - "For thus says the LORD, 'When seventy years have been completed for Babylon, I will visit you and fulfill My good word to you, to bring you back to this place.'"

Numbers 23:19 God is not a man, that he should lie, nor a human being, that he should change his mind. Has he said, and will he not do it? Or has he spoken, and will he not make it happen? (NET) (see also Mal 3:6).

- Prayer is not meant to change God's mind because God cannot change His mind. Neither does God need our advice (Rom 11:34). Prayer does change things, but not God. It changes things, because God invites us to participate in His changing of things in our world.

Matthew 6:8 "So do not be like them; for your Father knows what you need before you ask Him. ⁹ "Pray, then, in this way: 'Our Father who is in heaven, Hallowed be Your name. ¹⁰ 'Your kingdom come. Your will be done, On earth as it is in heaven. ¹¹ 'Give us this day our daily bread.

- God already knows what we need, but Jesus tells us to still ask! Presumption is a sin. It's a sign of dependence, respect, and acknowledges God's graciousness to us.

Why Should We Pray or Evangelize if God is Sovereign?

- We pray because Jesus is our example (Matt 14:23; 26:36; Mark 1:35; 6:46; Luke 3:21; 5:16; 6:12; 9:18, 28; 11:1; 22:41; John 17).
- Paul, who taught sovereign election, still prayed (Rom 10:1; Acts 16:25; 28:8) and asked for prayer (1 Thess 5:1; 2 Thess 3:1; Eph 6:19; Rom 15:30; 2 Cor 1:11; Phil 1:19; Col 4:3; Philemon 1:22).
- God commands us to pray. Shouldn't this be enough? (1 Thess. 5:17; Matt. 7:7; Luke 18:1; Phil. 4:6; Heb. 4:16)
- He grants the privilege of prayer to His children. "This also I will let the house of Israel ask me to do for them" (Ezek. 36:37).
- Because it glorifies Him by acknowledging His sovereignty (He ordains ENDS and MEANS).
- Because it benefits us in our relationship with God. Prayer is talking with God. He desires a relationship.
- Because God ordains the ends and the means (2 Timothy 2:10),
 - **2 Timothy 2:10** So I endure all things for the sake of those chosen by God, that they too may obtain salvation in Christ Jesus and its eternal glory. (NET)

James 5:13-18 Is anyone among you suffering? *Then he must pray*. Is anyone cheerful? He is to sing praises. ¹⁴ Is anyone among you sick? *Then he must call for the elders of the church and they are to pray* over him, anointing him with oil in the name of the Lord; ¹⁵ and the **prayer** offered in faith will restore the one who is sick, and the Lord will raise him up, and if he has committed sins, they will be forgiven him. ¹⁶ Therefore, confess your sins to one another, and **pray** for one another so that you may be healed. **The effective prayer of a righteous man can accomplish much.** ¹⁷ Elijah was a man with a nature like ours, and he **prayed earnestly** that it would not rain, and it did not rain on the earth for three years and six months. ¹⁸ Then he **prayed** again, and the sky poured rain and the earth produced its fruit.