

The Book of Romans

The Gospel of God

Why did God choose you?

Romans 9-11

Israel and the Promise of God – Why the word of God has not failed

¹⁴ What shall we say then? There is no injustice with God, is there? May it never be!

¹⁵ For He says to Moses, "I WILL HAVE MERCY ON WHO I HAVE MERCY, AND I WILL HAVE COMPASSION ON WHOM I HAVE COMPASSION."

¹⁶ So then it *does not depend* on the man who wills or the man who runs, but on God who has mercy.

¹⁷ For the Scripture says to Pharaoh, "FOR THIS VERY PURPOSE I RAISED YOU UP, TO DEMONSTRATE MY POWER IN YOU, AND THAT MY NAME MIGHT BE PROCLAIMED THROUGHOUT THE WHOLE EARTH."

¹⁸ So then He has mercy on whom He desires, and He hardens whom He desires.

(Romans 9:14-18)

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Freedom of God's Mercy

➤ Exodus 33:19

- God's mercy is not a matter of justice to those who receive it, but altogether undeserved
- the essence of God's character is the freedom to show mercy to whom He chooses

Freedom of God's Mercy

- "So then it *does not depend* on the one who wills or the one who runs, but on God who has mercy." (9:16)

Freedom of God's Mercy

1. The One who Wills
 - human volition – inner desire, determination or readiness to do something
 - God's bestowal of mercy is *not* dependent on our willing or desiring it

Freedom of God's Mercy

2. The One who Runs
 - "runs" – human exertion or effort
 - God's bestowal of mercy is *not* dependent on our works or activity

Freedom of God's Mercy

3. God who has Mercy
 - the bestowal of mercy *is* dependent on God's will or desire alone
 - God's bestowal of mercy and human activity are mutually exclusive – no dual basis for His mercy

Freedom of God's Mercy

- Implications:
 1. Unconditional election does not negate the necessity of faith for salvation (our *willingness* to believe in God's promise in Christ)
 - God's grace frees our enslaved wills so that we freely and willingly believe in Jesus

When the Gentiles heard this, they *began* rejoicing and glorifying the word of the Lord; and as many as had been appointed to eternal life believed. (Acts 13:48)

A woman named Lydia, from the city of Thyatira, a seller of purple fabrics, a worshiper of God, was listening; and the Lord opened her heart to respond to the things spoken by Paul. (Acts 16:14)

But we should always give thanks to God for you, brethren beloved by the Lord, because God has chosen you from the beginning for salvation through sanctification by the Spirit and faith in the truth. It was for this He called you through our gospel, that you may gain the glory of our Lord Jesus Christ. (2 Thess. 2:13-14)

Freedom of God's Mercy

➤ Implications:

2. Unconditional election alone preserves the grace of God at every point of our salvation
 - we are not the decisive cause of our salvation, God is – removes all human boasting!

⁸ For by grace you have been saved through faith; and that not of yourselves, *it is* the gift of God; ⁹ not as a result of works, so that no one may boast.
(Ephesians 2:8-9)