

## The Book of Romans

The Gospel of God

### Biblical Tension

God's sovereignty over all things  
*and*  
 Human beings responsibility for their  
 free choices

### Romans 9-11

The Explanation of Israel's Unbelief:  
 Divine and Human

<sup>7</sup> What then? What Israel is seeking, it has not obtained, but those who were chosen obtained it, and the rest were hardened;  
<sup>8</sup> just as it is written,

"GOD GAVE THEM A SPIRIT OF STUPOR,  
 EYES TO SEE NOT AND EARS TO HEAR NOT,  
 DOWN TO THIS VERY DAY."

<sup>9</sup> And David says,

"LET THEIR TABLE BECOME A SNARE AND A TRAP,  
 AND A STUMBLING BLOCK AND A RETRIBUTION TO THEM.

<sup>10</sup> "LET THEIR EYES BE DARKENED TO SEE NOT,  
 AND BEND THEIR BACKS CONTINUALLY."

(Romans 11:7-10)

### Summary Perspective on Israel

1. Israel did not obtain righteousness (right standing with God) which they sought by means of the law
2. The remnant of Israel ("the election") obtained this righteousness by God's calling and grace
3. The rest of Israel were hardened by God

### Divine Hardening

1. What is this Hardening?
  - A judicial act of God that renders people spiritually insensitive and prevents them from responding to God or to His message of salvation
  - Deut. 29:4; Is. 29:10; Ps. 69:22-23

<sup>37</sup> But though He had performed so many signs before them, *yet* they were not believing in Him. <sup>38</sup> *This was* to fulfill the word of Isaiah the prophet which he spoke:

"LORD, WHO HAS BELIEVED OUR REPORT? AND TO WHOM HAS THE ARM OF THE LORD BEEN REVEALED?"

<sup>39</sup> For this reason they could not believe, for Isaiah said again, <sup>40</sup> "HE HAS BLINDED THEIR EYES AND HE HARDENED THEIR HEART, SO THAT THEY WOULD NOT SEE WITH THEIR EYES AND PERCEIVE WITH THEIR HEART, AND BE CONVERTED AND I HEAL THEM."

(John 12:37-40)

## Divine Hardening

### 2. How does God Harden?

- the act in which God surrenders ("gives over") the person to their rebellion which they have chosen themselves (c.f. Rom. 1:24)
  - as such it is just and deserved

## Divine Hardening

### 3. Why does God Harden?

- to make known the riches of His glory in the display of His mercy in which God is justified as God (Romans 9:22-23; 11:30-32)

## Divine Hardening

### ➤ Implications

- 1) Our salvation is owing to nothing in us, but all to God's work and grace
- 2) We can have confidence that God is in absolute control of all things