The Book of Romans

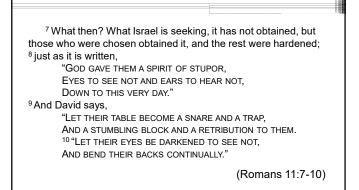
The Gospel of God

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



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

³⁷ But though He had performed so many signs before them, yet they were not believing in Him. ³⁸ 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?"

³⁹ For this reason they could not believe, for Isaiah said again, ⁴⁰ "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