

Pt 32 Romans 9:13, Jacob Have I Loved, but Esau Have I Hated

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Romans 9:13

13 As it is written, Jacob have I loved, but Esau have I hated.

We did not have time in our last message to thoroughly cover verse 13 and I told you that we would have to come back and revisit it. So, that is what we are going to be doing in this message.

Verse 13 of Romans 9 is one of those difficult verses in the Bible. Many people try to explain it away and try to soften what it actually says. There are those that cannot fathom that God the Father could have any kind of hatred in His D.N.A. So, they change this verse to say something that it does not say.

In fact, there are some Bible translations that have completely changed the wording of this verse to try and make it more palatable. Listen to a few of those:

The **CEV** (Contemporary English Version) of the Bible says this: **Romans 9:13: That's why the Scriptures say that the Lord liked Jacob more than Esau.**

The **NIRV** (New International Reader's Version) says this: **Romans 9:13 It is written, "I chose Jacob instead of Esau."**

The **WE** (Worldwide English New Testament Version) says: **Romans 9:13 So what shall we say? Does God do what is not right? No, never!**

Listen friends, we need to be very careful of which Bible version we use. You can always rely upon the Authorized King James Version of the Bible to tell you the truth.

I do not think we ought to twist God's Word and change it to suit our narrative. I believe every word of this Bible and I do not believe there is a single thing in it that is wrong or needs corrected. With that thought in our mind I want us to examine this verse and see what the Word of God is saying.

Let's begin by looking at the first part of this verse: **Romans 9:13a... As it is written.** As we mentioned last time, Paul quotes 16 different passages from the Old Testament in Chapter 9 of Romans. Here in verse 13, he is quoting from **Malachi 1:2-3**. I want us to look at those verses: **Malachi 1:2-3 I have loved you, saith the LORD. Yet ye say, Wherein hast thou loved us? Was not Esau Jacob's brother? saith the LORD: yet I loved Jacob, 3 And I hated Esau, and laid his mountains and his heritage waste for the dragons of the wilderness.**

When you study the Bible, you should always compare Scripture with Scripture. That way you get a clearer understanding of the passages, and you see how they are related. Most of the Old Testament is pointing you towards the New Testament and the New Testament is looking back at the Old Testament. That is why many times you will find Old Testament citations in the New Testament.

I've mentioned this before, but I think it would be good to mention it again. Three years ago, Andy Stanley (son of Charles Stanley) argued in one of his sermons that the Christian faith must be "**unhitched**" from the Old Testament. He stated that "Peter, James, and Paul elected to unhitch the Christian faith from their Jewish scriptures, and my friends, we must as well."

Andy Stanley is the Pastor and Founder of Northpoint Community Church in Alpharetta, GA. A Church with more than 5,000 people who regularly attend. In 2017, a survey of U.S. pastors in Outreach magazine identified Stanley as one of the ten most influential living pastors in America.

Just as I said that you needed to be very careful which Bible version you read, you also need to be very careful which preacher you listen to..

Obviously, Andy Stanley is more of a motivational speaker than he is a Gospel preacher... No real Gospel preacher would ever suggest that you should "unhitch" from the Old Testament.

Men such as Jesus, Peter, John, and Paul often cited Old Testament Scriptures in their preaching and never suggested that anyone should "unhitch" from them.

Let's get back to our verse and look at the next part of it: **Romans 9:13b... Jacob have I loved** No one has a problem with this statement. It speaks of God's love. Everybody likes to think of God's love. God is the very essence of love. God not only loves the Christian, but he loves the sinner as well.

When it comes to love, God has a general love for all mankind.

Listen to what Jesus said in His Sermon on the Mount:

Matthew 5:43-48

43 Ye have heard that it hath been said, Thou shalt love thy neighbor, and hate thine enemy.

44 But I say unto you, Love your enemies, bless them that curse you, do good to them that hate you, and pray for them which despitefully use you, and persecute you; 45 That ye may be the children of your Father which is in heaven: for he maketh his sun to rise on the evil and on the good, and sendeth rain on the just and on the unjust.

46 For if ye love them which love you, what reward have ye? do not even the publicans the same?

47 And if ye salute your brethren only, what do ye more *than others*? do not even the publicans so?

48 Be ye therefore perfect, even as your Father which is in heaven is perfect.

Here, Jesus starts out by saying "**Ye have heard.**" When he says that, he is speaking of what the people of that day had heard all their lives from their religious leaders, the Pharisees, Sadducees, Scribes, and Priests. The message they were teaching was a half-truth. The first part about loving their neighbour was absolutely true. That is found in **Leviticus 19:18** Thou shalt not avenge, nor bear any grudge against the children of thy people, but thou shalt love thy neighbour as thyself: I *am* the LORD. But the second part where they said: "**and hate thine enemy,**" is nowhere in the Scriptures. This is what THEY had added and were teaching the people. It was a wrong interpretation of God's Word. This is what was being passed down from the Elders or Tradition.

Jesus comes along and sets the record straight and gives them the CORRECT interpretation: **44 But I say unto you, Love your enemies, bless them that curse you, do good to them that hate you, and pray for them which despitefully use you, and persecute you;**

This was radical teaching to many when Jesus said this but he (being God) provides the exact meaning which IS actually found in the Scriptures: **Proverbs 25:21 If thine enemy be hungry, give him bread to eat; and if he be thirsty, give him water to drink:**

Jesus also tells them how God's love is a general love for EVERYONE: **for he maketh his sun to rise on the evil and on the good, and sendeth rain on the just and on the**

And that's the truth, isn't it? Even the worse sinner is blessed by God throughout his life, with the wonderful results of God's general love for all.

Just the fact that God offers salvation to who-so-ever-will is a sure indication that his love goes out to all. **John 3:16** For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life.

Aren't you glad for that? It is because of God's love that WE can be saved. Listen to what the Bible says in **Romans 5:6-8** For when we were yet without strength, in due time Christ died for the ungodly. 7 For scarcely for a righteous man will one die: yet peradventure for a good man some would even dare to die. 8 But God commendeth his love toward us, in that, while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us.

If you are saved today, you once were without strength. You once were ungodly. You once were considered a "sinner." But God loved you so much that He saved you.

I fully believe that God will save ANYONE that comes to him for salvation. I would go as far as to say even Judas Iscariot could have repented and come to Jesus by faith and believed on him as Savior and he could have been saved.

I believe men like Adolf Hitler, Charles Manson, Jeffery Dahmer, or any other serial killer could have come to Jesus for salvation and been saved.

As far as I know none of those men were ever saved and all are burning in Hell at this very moment. But they didn't have to because of God's love.

Now, we've spoke of God's general love for all mankind, but he also **has a specific love for his elect unto salvation.**

Whenever the word "**election**" is mentioned where the Bible is concerned, there are always those that want to relate it to Calvinism or those that label themselves as "reformed." I want to say to you today that election has nothing to do with John Calvin. Election is a Bible doctrine. It is very clear from God's Word that believers are God's elect. Not just those of the Jewish race.

We've already covered who the elect are in past sermons in this series but just in case you have forgotten or are listening for the first time, the word "**elect**" simply means "**chosen or selected.**" God's elect are those that he mentioned in **Romans 8:28-30** And we know that all things work together for good to them that love God, to them who are **the called** according to *his* purpose. 29 For whom he did **foreknow**, he also did **predestinate to be conformed to the image of his Son**, that he might be the firstborn among many brethren. 30 Moreover whom he did predestinate, them he also **called**: and whom he called, them he **also justified**: and whom he justified, them he also **glorified**.

We see the elect in **Ephesians 1:3-6** Blessed *be* the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who hath blessed us with all spiritual blessings in heavenly *places* in Christ: 4 According as he hath **chosen us in him before the foundation of the world**, that we should be holy and without blame before him in love: 5 Having **predestinated us unto the adoption of children by Jesus Christ** to himself, according to the good pleasure of his will, 6 To the praise of the glory of his grace, wherein he hath made us accepted in the beloved.

We also see it in **1 Thessalonians 1:4-6** Knowing, brethren beloved, **your election of God.** 5 For our gospel came not unto you in word only, but also in power, and in the Holy Ghost, and in much assurance; as ye know what manner of men we were among you for your sake. 6 And ye became followers of us, and of the Lord, having received the word in much affliction, with joy of the Holy Ghost:

We are also taught in the Bible that no man can be saved unless he is "**drawn.**" Jesus says in **John 6:44** No man can come to me, except the Father which hath sent me draw him: and I will raise him up at the last day.

And, just as we read while ago in **Romans 8:30** Moreover whom he did predestinate, them he also **called**: and whom he called, them he also justified: and whom he justified, them he also glorified.

The Bible also tells us this in **Romans 3:10-11** As it is written, There is none righteous, no, not one: 11 There is none that understandeth, there is **none that seeketh after God.**

Also, in **2 Corinthians 4:3-4** But if our gospel be hid, it is hid to them that are lost: 4 In whom the god of this world hath blinded the minds of them which believe not, lest the light of the glorious gospel of Christ, who is the image of God, should shine unto them.

I think we can safely say, if you are truly saved today, then God called you to Himself and you are one of the elect.

We do not see anywhere in the Bible where we are to be concerned as to whether we are one of the "elect." Instead, we are told to **believe in the Lord Jesus Christ** by faith and through His Grace to be saved. Once you realize that YOU have absolutely nothing to do with Salvation and that it is ENTIRELY God's work in you, then you will understand God's Sovereignty. The truth is there is not one single person that has ever lived that deserves salvation. To say that some people will not be saved makes God "unfair," shows that you do not understand God at all.

Now, we must look at the last part of our opening text in **Romans 9:13c ... but Esau have I hated.**

This is where things start getting difficult for a lot of people and this is where a lot of people want to alter God's Word and explain it away as to not sound so harsh. Hate is such a strong word isn't it? I mean, we are taught as children not to ever say that we hate anyone. It almost sounds unchristian.

Naturally, the question everyone wants to ask is: "**If God is a God of love, how could God hate?**"

First, I want to say this: We as humans think of hate in a certain way. It is reserved for something that we despise, something we consider despicable and want to destroy. We look at hate from sinful, carnal eyes.

But, when it comes to God's hate – there is nothing sinful or carnal about him. Therefore, he does not hate the same way that we hate. God's hate is always righteous and pure. His hate is seen through Holy eyes.

The Bible shows us numerous things that God hates, let me give a few of them.

Proverbs 6:16-19 These six *things* doth the LORD **hate**: yea, seven *are* an abomination unto him: 17 A proud look, a lying tongue, and hands that shed innocent blood, 18 An heart that deviseth wicked imaginations, feet that be swift in running to mischief, 19 A false witness *that* speaketh lies, and he that soweth discord among brethren.

Isaiah 61:8 For I the LORD love judgment, I **hate** robbery for burnt offering; and I will direct their work in truth, and I will make an everlasting covenant with them.

Zechariah 8:17 And let none of you imagine evil in your hearts against his neighbour; and love no false oath: for all these *are things* that I **hate**, saith the LORD.

Deuteronomy 16:21-22 Thou shalt not plant thee a grove of any trees near unto the altar of the LORD thy God, which thou shalt make thee. 22 Neither shalt thou set thee up *any image*; which the LORD thy God **hateth**.

In the new Testament in the Book of Revelation, the Lord Jesus speaking to the Church at Ephesus says this: **Revelation 2:4-6** Nevertheless I have *somewhat* against thee, because thou hast left thy first love. 5 Remember therefore from whence thou art fallen, and repent, and do the first works; or else I will come unto thee quickly, and will remove thy candlestick out of his place, except thou repent. 6 But this thou hast, that thou hatest the deeds of the Nicolaitans, which I also **hate**.

Did you notice a what all those verses had in common? The Lord hates things that are unrighteous. Again, he looks at things through Holy eyes.

When it comes to God's love/hate relationship with Jacob and Esau, we must remember what we studied last week in **Romans 9:11** (*For the children being not yet born, neither having done any good or evil, that the purpose of God according to election might stand, not of works, but of him that calleth;*)

God chose before either of these two men were born. There was nothing good or bad that either Jacob or Esau had done to warrant God's love or hate. It was simply God's choosing in His divine will, His Sovereignty.

You could look at it as God chose Jacob to be the one in whom he blessed and Esau he chose not to bless. The real question here is not why would God choose to hate Esau, it is **why would God choose to love Jacob?** To that I will have to say, you'll have to ask Him!

The fact is, God chose Jacob and did not choose Esau and that is His right.

We don't have time this morning to look at the next few verses of Romans 9 but Paul will answer the question that many would have after hearing this and that is – Is God being fair?