

Common Objections to Romans 9

Sermon 12 in the Doctrines of Grace Series

Romans 9:6-26

What is Libertarian Free Will?

1. Man is free to act contrary to His nature.
2. Man is free from any predetermination by God.

I. Jacob and Esau v. 9-13

A. Common Objections to the Plain Meaning of v. 13 (refuted)

1. God looked ahead and saw that Jacob would do good and that Esau would be wicked.
2. Hated doesn't mean "hated" it means "loved less".
Miseo = (BAGD) to hate, to persecute in hatred, to detest, to abhor
Eph 5:29; Luke 6:13; Matt. 10:22; Matt. 24:9
3. The individuals Jacob and Esau are not in view. It is the national election of Israel and the national rejection of Edom.
Genesis 25:23 – Two nations -- Malachi 1:2, 3

B. The Plain Meaning of v. 13

1. Both individuals and nations are in view. **Malachi 1:1-5**
2. Why did God love Jacob and not Esau? **Rom. 9:11-13**
 - a) There are no human reasons we can find for this choice. **Deut. 29:29**
 - b) This choice is based solely on God's good pleasure and His own will.
 - c) God is God and we are not, and we have no right to complain against Him.
 - d) The crying need of our day is a right view of God.

“Paul makes explicit that God’s decision to treat Esau and Jacob differently is not merely prior to their good or evil deeds but also completely independent of them. God’s electing purpose (Rom. 9:11c) and his concrete prediction (9:12c) are in no way based on the distinctives Esau and Jacob have by birth or action....God’s bestowal of mercy on whomever he wills is based neither on human willing (which would include faith) nor on human working (which would include all activity).” (Piper, The Justification of God pp 52-53)

II. Moses and Pharaoh 14-18

A. Objection -- God doesn't harden hearts

See Deut. 2:30 and Joshua 11:20; also Judges 2:20-22

B. Did God Really Harden Pharaoh's Heart?

1. **Exodus 3:17-20** – Moses at the burning bush
2. **Exodus 4:21-23** – Moses before meeting with Pharaoh
Advisors were asking Pharaoh to let Israel go Exodus 10:7, 20
3. **Exodus 7:3, 13** -- Before the first plague
3 times God says “I will harden Pharaoh’s heart.
6 times God hardened the heart of Pharaoh.
7 times it says Pharaoh’s heart was hard.
3 times – and first in 8:15 Pharaoh hardened his heart.
The purpose is revealed in **Romans 9:18** – which is the explanation of Romans 9:15 – see Exodus 33:17-19; 34:6-8

C. The Purpose of God in Raising up Pharaoh

1. The Ultimate end of all of God's acts (including His raising up of Pharaoh) are FOR HIS OWN GLORY. **Rom 11:36**
2. God raised up Pharaoh to show Israel the power of the God whom they were to follow. **Ex. 4:3-5**
3. God raised up Pharaoh, executed the plagues, and brought judgment on the Egyptian gods as a testimony to the Egyptians that Jehovah is the only true God. **Ex. 7:1-5**
4. God raised up Pharaoh to glorify His name among the heathen. **Ex. 15:14-18; Joshua 2:9-11; 1 Sam. 6:4-6**
5. God raised up Pharaoh to show to all generations to come that He punishes sin and will by no means clear the guilty. **Ex. 34:7; Heb 10:31; 1 Tim 5:19-20;**

III. Vessels of Wrath & Vessels of Mercy v. 20-23

- A. Objections to the Passage 20-21 (refuted)
v. 20 To **reply** is a Greek word that means = *to contradict or dispute*:
- B. All Men Are Made of the Same Lump (clay) v. 20-21
- C. The Potter and the Clay 20-21
 1. A potter has a plan.
 2. The potter gradually forms his vessel.
 3. Finally, the potter puts His mark on the vessel.
See Rev 7:3, 9:4, 14:1, 22:4
 4. Paul's imagery is taken from O.T. allusions to the potter and clay.
Isaiah. 29:15-16; 45:9; 64:8; Jeremiah 18:1-6
- D. The Patience of God 22
- E. The Mercy of God 23-26