

## Romans 9:13-16 – God is Just and Compassionate: Serve Him

Poole, PNT, TSK, GreekLexicon, Steele, Gaebelin, Rienecker, Hendriksen, Gill, Vincent, Trapp, Robertson, Henry, Koning, Geneva, Family, Calvin Beloved in Jesus Christ: **You are saved by God electing you, calling you, justifying you, sanctifying you, and glorifying you!** Election is the beginning of your salvation...the first step. But *some people don't like the idea of God electing some to salvation and passing over some.* They think God is obligated to save everyone if he saved some. **Does the Bible really teach about this?** Must God must save everyone if he saved some? Hear about this today.

Our headings are:

**God is Justified when he rejects the wicked**

**God is Compassionate when he receives some**

Our goals are: **That you will praise God for his compassion to you when he could have shown his justice to you instead!**

### **God is Justified when he rejects the wicked**

13 **As it is written, "Jacob I have loved, but Esau I have hated."** 14 What shall we say then? **Is there unrighteousness with God?** Certainly not!

#### **1. God loved Jacob and hated Esau!**

God not only hated Esau, but God hates all workers of sin also. All sinners are enemies of God.

**Psalm 5: 4** For You are not a God who takes pleasure in wickedness, Nor shall evil dwell with You. 5 The boastful shall not stand in Your sight; **You hate all workers of iniquity.**

6 You shall destroy those who speak falsehood; **The LORD abhors the bloodthirsty and deceitful man.**

**God rejected one from the same womb, from the same pregnancy, and the same father!**

#### **2. This fact, that God loved Jacob and hated Esau, was written.**

The phrase **"as it is written"** refers to something authoritative – with lasting and binding authority... not something written from history or like writing a grocery list.

**Where was it written down that God loved Jacob but hated Esau?**

**Malachi 1: 2** "I have loved you," says the LORD. "Yet you say, 'In what way have You loved us?' Was not Esau Jacob's brother?" Says the LORD. "**Yet Jacob I have loved; 3 But Esau I have hated,** And laid waste his mountains and his heritage For the jackals of the wilderness."

**Because of the authority of God's Word, when it said God loved Jacob and hated Esau, you can know it was the truth.**

#### **3 Some try to minimize God's hatred by saying God meant "he loved Esau less."**

To try to prove their point, they refer to the time when Jesus said **you must hate your father and love me.**

**Luke 14:26** "If anyone comes to Me and does not hate his father and mother, wife and children, brothers and sisters, yes, and his own life also, he cannot be My disciple.

**But these 2 situations are not similar. In Luke 14, Jesus was using exaggeration for effect.** He meant a Christian must love others less than they love him. In fact, **Jesus commanded you to love your parents.**

**But in our text, Romans 9:13, "hate" must be taken literally, as strong hatred- not as hyperbole!**

#### **4. How do we know God's hatred of Esau was strong and has to be taken literally?**

**a. God's hatred of Esau is a repeated, emphasized, and expanded on in other places.**

**b. God pronounced severe judgment on Esau!** This is not just "love less." (Malachi 1:3 above!)

**Obadiah 1:8** "Will I not in that day," says the LORD, "Even destroy the wise men from Edom, And understanding from the mountains of Esau? 9 **Then your mighty men, O Teman, shall be dismayed,** To the end that everyone from the mountains of Esau May **be cut off by slaughter.** 10 "For violence against your brother Jacob, **Shame shall cover you, And you shall be cut off forever.**

**c. When Esau pleaded for a blessing after he sold his birthright to Jacob, what some people take for a blessing, was really a curse from Isaac.** The passage should actually say: **His dwelling shall be "from," not "of" the fatness of the earth and the dew of the heavens.**

**d. As opposed to God's judgment on Esau, look at the gracious promise he gave to Jacob.**

Obadiah 1:17 "But on Mount Zion there shall be deliverance, And there shall be holiness; The house of Jacob shall possess their possessions. 18 The house of Jacob shall be a fire, And the house of Joseph a flame; But the house of Esau shall be stubble; They shall kindle them and devour them, And no survivor shall remain of the house of Esau," For the LORD has spoken.

**5. Was God justified in hating Esau and loving Jacob?**

**Yes, God is just when he elects one and reprobates another; there is no unrighteousness in him! Esau and all other enemies of God had one thing in common: They hated God.** Esau was an incredibly wicked man in his own right. He was polygamous. He married unbelieving women. He longed to kill his brother and planned to do so, even though he willingly sold his brother his birthright. **Esau seemed to have been robbed of his birthright**, but the birthright did not belong to him. **God determined the birthright belonged to Jacob. God told that to Rebekah and Issac. They ignored it.** So while Jacob was no angel, **God was still gracious to him, but punished Jesus for him.**

**6. Lessons:**

**a. God is never unfair.** Those who accuse God of being unfair in anything, should be rebuked and taught! When someone you love dies, God is not unfair. When you lose you job, God is not unfair. When you have tyrants in the government, God is not unfair. When you don't get the promotion, God is not unfair.

**b. No one is ever injured by election!** In other words, God's doesn't make people reject him.

**c. God hates some people, notably, those who reject him.** We say, God reprobates them. He leaves them alone to their own devices. They then self-destruct.

**d. When someone asks you: Why would a loving God leave man in his sin, you should stop them and ask, why does a just and holy God show mercy to those who violate his holiness?** Neither you nor that person should go beyond what God has revealed. Deuteronomy 29:29. The secret things belong to God.

**God is Compassionate when he receives some**

15 For He says to Moses, "I will have mercy on whomever I will have mercy, and I will have compassion on whomever I will have compassion."

**1. God is merciful and compassionate; this is authoritatively taught in both the Old and New Testaments.**

**2. God's mercy and compassion are not contingent on people being good and earning it.**

**God announced to Rebekah he had chosen to bless Jacob even before the twins were born.**

And God promised to show mercy to Jacob **without consideration of what he would do.**

God's compassionate election was **based purely on God's love**, not on Jacob's foreseen work, after all, he was quite a scoundrel.

**Romans 11: 5** Even so then, at this present time there is a remnant according to the election of grace. 6 And if by grace, then it is no longer of works; otherwise grace is no longer grace. But if it is of works, it is no longer grace; otherwise work is no longer work. 7 What then? **Israel has not obtained what it seeks; but the elect have obtained it,** and the rest were blinded.

**It wasn't even because Jacob's parents were good that he was loved by God.**

**It wasn't because Esau's parents were bad that he was hated by God.**

**And while it is common for the younger to serve the older, God was not held prisoner by this human custom.** He had free choice.

**3. God shows compassion to whomever he wills – he had to show compassion because no one deserved it and no one would be saved without it.**

When Israel committed idolatry at Mt. Sinai, **God had every right to destroy them, but he didn't.** He

spared the whole nation. From here Verse 15 was taken. This promise of compassion took place before the children were even born.

16 So then it is not of him who wills, nor of him who runs, but of God who shows mercy.

**4. God's compassion was not based on those who will it (no one does) nor by making a strenuous effort for God's will (no one does).**

Apostle Paul stated this unambiguously. Look what God said earlier.

Exodus 33: 19 Then He said, "I will make all My goodness pass before you, and I will proclaim the name of the LORD before you. **I will be gracious to whom I will be gracious, and I will have compassion on whom I will have compassion.**"

Israel did not deserve mercy at Mt. Sinai, but God showed mercy anyway.

**5. Lessons:**

**a. Election is unconditional.** It is only God's will that causes election. ALL men need mercy – meaning they deserve to die – and God must decide, of his own will, to show mercy.

**b. Election is from love – from compassion.**

Psalms 135:4 For the **LORD has chosen Jacob for Himself, Israel for His special treasure.**

**c. God is even compassionate to the wicked by giving them common blessings, like the rain, health, food, and sunshine, and he gave them his Word that they could read and be blessed.**

Matthew 5:45 "that you may be sons of your Father in heaven; for He makes His sun rise on the evil and on the good, and sends rain on the just and on the unjust.

Acts 14: 17 "Nevertheless He did not leave Himself without witness, in that He did good, gave us rain from heaven and fruitful seasons, filling our hearts with food and gladness."

**God has no pleasure in the death of the wicked.** Ezekiel 18:23. Ezekiel 33:11. See also Matthew 23:37; Luke 19:41, 24:47, John 3:16, Acts 17:30, etc. Consider how carefully God addressed Cain, the reprobate son of Adam. Yet, those who reject his blessings will be cursed even more strongly.

**d. God's election is worked out by his Spirit working in man, so man, of his own free will, desires to come to serve the living God and work for his glory.**

**e. Mercy, which man needs, presupposes misery!** Misery means there is sin. Man therefore needs mercy to avoid the consequences of sin. **Only God gives mercy because only he was sinned against.**

**Conclusion:**

**God is just in all he does.** That should be beyond doubt. If he were not just, he would not be God. He is not unjust in electing some. He is not unjust in condemning some. **God is compassionate to some.** He graciously elects, calls, justifies, sanctifies, and will glorify some through the Covenant Keeper's work-Jesus Christ.

Brothers in the Lord Jesus:

**1. Never accuse God of injustice because some are lost.** Remember, those who are lost are lost because they reject, of their own free will, the salvation offered to them in Jesus Christ.

**2. Always praise God for your election because if you relied on his justice you would spend eternity in hell.**

**3. Regularly, proclaim God's words so others can hear and believe. God calls the elect to him through the means of the Word.**

Finally: If you don't cry out for God's mercy and compassion, you will spend eternity in hell, howling from the pain and crying from the guilt of rejecting him. If you do cry out for God's mercy and compassion, know he guarantees he will hear and send help to you.