

Romans 9:19-24

The Rights of God, Pt. 1

1) Gospel Stated (ch. 1-8)

2) Objection #1 – Gospel makes God Untrustworthy (v. 6-13)

Reply #1 – God's Sovereign Freedom in Salvation

1. Isaac chosen, not Ishmael (i.e, without respect to Race)
2. Jacob chosen, not Esau (i.e, without respect to Works)
3. God Saves this way so that Election might be recognized by all

3) Objection #2 – Election makes God Unjust (v. 14-18)

Reply #2 – Election is essential to God's nature and glory

1. God's Word to Moses (v. 15-16) – my Name (nature) is to choose objects of mercy / wrath
2. God's Ways with Pharaoh (v. 17-18) – God's even hardens hearts to reveal His power/glory

4) Objection #3 – God Has no Right to Judge (v. 19)

Consider...

- a) Why Pharaoh did what he did
– Exod 5:2, 7:14,22, 8:15,32, 9:7,34

- b) The Doctrine of God's Providence¹

God not only creates / upholds all things, but works cooperatively with His creation to cause / direct their every act to accomplish His purposes in such a way that men are fully responsible and God is free from sin.

Creates / Upholds – Gen 1:1, Heb 1:3, Col 1:17

Cause / Direct –

1. Objects / Animals – Job 37:6-13, 38:22-30, Ps 148:8, Matt 5:45
2. Events / Nations – Prov 16:33, Job 12:23, Ps 22:28, Prov 21:1, Acts 14:16, 17:26

God is the primary / invisible cause
Creature is the secondary / visible cause

¹ See Wayne Grudem, *Bible Doctrine*, ed. Jeff Purswell (Grand Rapids, Zondervan, 1999), 142-152.

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3. Human Actions

- Matt 6:11, 2 Thes 3:12 – provision
- Gen 4:1, Psa 139:13 – procreation
- Prov 16:9 – human decisions
- Phil 2:12-13 – good works
- 2 Tim 2:7 – spiritual wisdom

4. Human Sins

- Joseph – Genesis 45:5-8, 50:20
- Pharaoh – Exodus 4-14

Full Human Responsibility for sins committed

- Rom 6:23 – *the wages of sin is death*
- Ezek 16:14 – *the soul who sins will die*
- Rom 2:6 – *God will render to each one according to his works*

God's Freedom from Sin

- James 1:13-15
- Ps 145:17

Reply #3 – Whose Rights? – v. 20-21

KSN [election, doctrine / lion, snow, slave]

Praxis

1. How do we know when we have crossed over the line from honest questioning of God and His ways to beginning to dispute / blame Him?
2. How would you explain the doctrine of Providence?
3. Does Providence mean that your choices are not “real” or not “free”? Explain how you understand “real / free”...
4. How would the world be different if God did not work providentially to direct all things to His intended outcome?