

Sermon Series: Romans

Sermon Text: Romans 9:6-13 The Children of the Promise

God's promise powerfully calls each chosen child into being.

1) God has always freely chosen individuals according to His purpose.

- a) Israel versus ISRAEL (v. 6b)
- b) 2 Examples:
 - i) Isaac was chosen, but not Ishmael (v. 8)
 - ii) Jacob was chosen, but not Esau (v. 10-13)
 - (1) Same mother and father—no genealogical explanation
 - (2) not yet born . . . done nothing either good or bad—no meritorious explanation
- c) God's Purpose of Election (v. 11)
 - i) "not because of works"—no human cause
 - ii) "but because of Him who calls"—only a Divine cause
 - iii) "Jacob I loved, but Esau I hated." (Malachi 1:2, 3)
- d) **Application:**
 - i) It is illogical to deny that Paul is teaching the election of individuals by saying that Jacob and Esau merely represent God's redemptive plan for separate nations, Israel (Jacob) and Edom (Esau). Paul is trying to explain how it could be that so many of Jacob's descendants, of the "chosen nation" of Israel are not individually chosen. His answer is that God has always chosen His people freely, not constrained by human genealogy or human merit.
 - ii) Hard questions like this must always be settled by Scripture. Paul uses, but does not rely on, reason. He reasons from Scripture (Gen. 18:10, 14; 21:12; 25:23; Mal. 1:2, 3).
 - iii) Praise God for His absolute sovereignty.

2) God's promise is the power that creates a child of God.

- a) 2 Types of Children:
 - i) "the children of the flesh"—exemplified by Ishmael, who was conceived first in Sarah's sinful mind, and then by Abraham's sinful act—human wisdom and power in defiance of God's law
 - ii) "the children of the promise"—exemplified by Isaac, who was conceived in a barren womb by the power of God's word working through Abraham and Sarah
- b) God's Effectual Call—"because of Him who calls—she was told"
- c) **Application:**
 - i) For our Covenant Children: confidence not presumption
 - ii) Praise God for conversion.

Doxology: For from Him and through Him and to Him are all things. To Him be glory forever. Amen.
(Romans 11:36)