

Sermon Title: The Sovereignty of God Has Not Failed

Sermon Text: Romans 9:6-29

Sermon Purpose: To call the hearer to submit to the proper place of God and man in His plan of salvation.

Sermon Proposition: There are 3 basic concepts Paul presents on God's sovereignty and human responsibility.

I. The correction of the misunderstanding of Scripture. Vv. 6-13

II. The clarity on the question of God's character. Vv.14-23

III. The comprehensive plans of God's salvation. V.24-29

I. The correction of the misunderstanding of Scripture. Vv. 6-13

Paul argues that God's Word never promised salvation to all the biological descendants of Abraham.

A. Salvation is not based on who we are. Vv. 6-7

B. Salvation is not based on what we have done. Vv.8-11

C. Salvation is not based on how we respond. Vv.12-13

1. The call of God is unconditional.

2. The call of God is effectual.

II. The clarity on the question of God's character. Vv.14-23

Paul argues that salvation is never a birthright, even for Jews, but always a gift of God's selecting love.

A. We do not earn or deserve God's mercy. V.14-16

1. This creates hope for the lost.

2. This creates humility in the saved.

B. God is gracious to save some of humanity. Vv.17-18

1. Does God owe salvation to anyone?

2. God would be just to condemn all of humanity.

Exodus: Hardening of Pharaoh's heart

Exodus 4:21 And the LORD said to Moses, "When you go back to Egypt, see that you do all those wonders before Pharaoh which I have put in your hand. But I will harden his heart, so that he will not let the people go.

Exodus 7:3 "And I will harden Pharaoh's heart, and multiply My signs and My wonders in the land of Egypt.

Exodus 7:13 And Pharaoh's heart grew hard, and he did not heed them, as the LORD had said.

Pharaoh's hardening of his heart

Exodus 8:32 But Pharaoh hardened his heart at this time also; neither would he let the people go.

Exodus 9:34 And when Pharaoh saw that the rain, the hail, and the thunder had ceased, he sinned yet more; and he hardened his heart, he and his servants.

C. We must be careful not to defy God's authority or to sit in judgment of God's way and plan. Vv.19-21

1. He is the Creator.

2. We are the creature.

3. He is the Owner.

4. We are the owned.

5. He is God.

6. We are not God.

D. God's ways and purpose are not humanities ways and purposes. Vv. 22-23

III. The comprehensive plans of God's salvation. V.24-29

Paul answers that salvation is a gift He is free to bestow on Gentiles as well as Jews.

A. The witness of Scripture from Hosea. Vv.24-26

Hosea 1:10 "Yet the number of the children of Israel Shall be as the sand of the sea, Which cannot be measured or numbered. And it shall come to pass In the place where it was said to them, 'You are not My people,' There it shall be said to them, 'You are sons of the living God.'

Hosea 2:23 Then I will sow her for Myself in the earth, And I will have mercy on *her who had* not obtained mercy; Then I will say to *those who were* not My people, 'You are My people!' And they shall say, 'You are my God!'"

Hosea 1:2, 3-4, 6, 8-9

Paul uses two quotations from Hosea and two from Isaiah to show that Israel's unbelief and rejection of the Messiah fit Old Testament prophecies.

B. The witness of Scripture from Isaiah. Vv. 27-28

Isaiah 10:22 For though your people, O Israel, be as the sand of the sea, A remnant of them will return; The destruction decreed shall overflow with righteousness. **23** For the Lord GOD of hosts Will make a determined end In the midst of all the land.

Isaiah 28:22 Now therefore, do not be mockers, Lest your bonds be made strong; For I have heard from the Lord GOD of hosts, A destruction determined even upon the whole earth.

Romans 10:22-23; 11:5

C. The witness of Scripture from Isaiah. V.29

Isaiah 1:2 Hear, O heavens, and give ear, O earth! For the LORD has spoken: "I have nourished and brought up children, And they have rebelled against Me;

Isaiah 13:19 And Babylon, the glory of kingdoms, The beauty of the Chaldeans' pride, Will be as when God overthrew Sodom and Gomorrah.

Conclusion: The Sound Was Deafening

"Although no one was near enough to hear it, it ultimately echoed around the world. None of the passengers in the DC-4 every knew what happened; they died instantly. That was February 15, 1947. The *Avianca Airline* flight bound for Quito, Equador, crashed clumsily into the 14,000 foot-high towering peak of El Tablazo not far from Bogota. Then it dropped, a flaming mass of metal, into a ravine far below. A young New Yorker, Glenn Chambers, was one of its victims. He planned to begin a ministry with the *Voice of the Andes*, a lifelong dream that suddenly aborted into a nightmare.

Before leaving the Miami Airport earlier that day, Chambers hurriedly dashed off a note to his mom on a piece of paper he found on the floor of the terminal. That scrap of paper was once a printed piece of advertisement with the single word WHY sprawled across the center. But between the mailing and the delivery of that note, Chambers was killed. When the letter did arrive, there staring up at his mom was the haunting question – WHY? Of all the questions it is the most searching, the most tormenting. No single truth removes the need to ask Why? like this one. Here it is:

GOD IS TOO KIND TO DO ANYTHING CRUEL...

TOO WISE TO MAKE A MISTAKE...

TOO DEEP TO EXPLAIN HIMSELF.

Mrs. Chambers stopped asking Why? when she saw the Who behind the scene. All other sounds are muffled when we claim His absolute sovereignty. Even the deafening sound of a crashing DC-4."

- William Petersen, *How to Be a Saint While Lying Flat on Your Back*, Swindoll's Ultimate Book of Illustrations and Quotes, Nashville, Thomas Nelson, 1998, pp.245-246.