

ULC Sermon Study Resource

Romans // God's Sovereignty

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Prayer: Pause for a few moments to go to the Lord in prayer. Ask that He would draw near to you in this time, and open your heart and mind to hear His Word.

Icebreaker: When has a lack of context caused a misunderstanding between you and others?

Reading: Romans 9:1-27

Outline:

- I. The Context
 - a. The heart of Romans 9 asks the question of why many of Paul's fellow Jews hadn't put their trust in Jesus. Paul is asking the question, *If Jesus is the Messiah promised to the Jewish people, and yet many of them do not believe in him, is this consistent with God's grand plan of salvation?*
 - b. Verse 6 argues that, yes, this is consistent with God's plan because the word of God never fails. God's word makes it clear what is going on, as explained below.
Q: How does Paul resolve the frustration/confusion of people not following God's plan?
- II. The Promise of God
 - a. The promise of God creates the people of God. It is not about lineage, ethnicity, or moral goodness. God chooses according to his promise and has called you to be his own.
 - b. Regardless of your struggles, God still wants you on His team. No matter what is on your heart, God still thinks that you are a child of promise because of His mercy.
Q: How can we draw peace knowing that, no matter what, God still wants us with him?
- III. The Mercy of God
 - a. Our God is merciful to everyone. In his mercy for all people, God, in His sovereignty, worked throughout history and through various people to bring about the day when Jesus would come for the salvation of all.
 - b. We can ask why God chooses to do the things the way He does, but at the end of the day we must ask ourselves if our response to His will has been one of gratitude and awe for His mercy or being upset for not acting how we want Him to.
Q: How can we learn to trust God's will and not be upset when His will goes against our desires?

Reflection/Application Questions:

- 1) How does God's mercy, as described in this text, speak to His unconditional love?
- 2) How can we continue to improve ourselves to be good members of God's team?
- 3) How can our need for control get in the way of following God completely?

Suggestions for further study:

- Ephesians 1:11 **Q: How can we learn to give control to God and His plan?**
- Job 42:2 **Q: How can we better look to the hidden plans of God when in times of pain?**

Closing Prayer:

Father God, we thank you that in your sovereignty, you chose to have mercy on your creation. We thank you for choosing us to be your children. Allow us to be rested in your call and in your mercy. We pray that we may release control into your hands and trust in your will completely. Amen.