

THE GREATEST LETTER EVER WRITTEN #23

"Who Chose Who?" pt.2

Romans 9:14-33

REVIEW:

"To us sovereignty is always connected with tyranny...we instinctively fight it. We fight it in our national life, in our family life, and in our individual relationships. We do not trust anyone with absolute power." *Dr. Ray Stedman* (From *Guilt To Glory*; Vol. 2; p.23)

BOTTOM LINE: We don't trust anyone with absolute power and unfortunately this usually includes _____.

THREE QUESTIONS ABOUT GOD'S SOVERIGNTY:

QUESTION #1 - *"What then shall we say? Is God unjust?"* (v.14)

QUOTE: - *James Stifler; The Epistle To The Romans; Moody Press, p.129*

ANSWER - *"Not at all!"*

ILLUSTRATION #1 - *For he says to Moses, "I will have mercy on whom I have mercy, and I will have compassion on whom I have compassion." It does not, therefore, depend on man's desire or effort, but on God's mercy.* (vs.15-16)

ILLUSTRATION #2 - *For the Scripture says to Pharaoh: "I raised you up for this very purpose, that I might display my power in you and that my name might be proclaimed in all the earth." Therefore God has mercy on whom he wants to have mercy, and he hardens whom he wants to harden.* (vs.17-18).

QUESTION #2 - *One of you will say to me: "Then why does God still blame us? For who resists his will?"* (v.19)

ANSWER: *But who are you O man, to talk back to God? Shall what is formed say to him who formed it, "Why did you make me like this?"* (v.20)

ILLUSTRATION #1 - *Does not the potter have the right to make out of the same lump of clay some pottery for noble purposes and some for common use?* (v.21)

What if God, choosing to show his wrath and make his power known, bore with great patience the objects of his wrath – prepared for destruction? What if he did this to make the riches of his glory known to the objects of his mercy, whom he prepared in advance for glory – even us, whom he also called, not only from the Jews but also from the Gentiles? (vs.22-24)

Think About It: If anyone goes to heaven he has no one but God to _____, and if anyone goes to hell he has no one but himself to _____.

As he says in Hosea: "I will call them 'my people' who are not my people; and I will call her 'my loved one' who is not my loved one" and "It will happen that in the very place where it was said to them, 'you are not my people,' they will be called 'sons of the living God.'

Isaiah cries out concerning Israel: "Though the number of the Israelites be like the sand by the sea, only the remnant will be saved. For the Lord will carry out his sentence on earth with speed and finality."

It is just as Isaiah said previously: "Unless the Lord Almighty had left us descendants, we would have become like Sodom, and we would have been like Gomorrah." (vs.25-29)

QUESTION #3 - *What then shall we say? That the Gentiles, who did not pursue righteousness, have obtained it, a righteousness that is by faith; but Israel, who pursued a law of righteousness, has not attained it. Why Not?* (vs.30-31)

ANSWER - *Because they pursued it not by faith but as if it were by works. They stumbled over the "stumbling stone." As it is written: "See, I lay in Zion a stone that causes men to stumble and a rock that makes them fall, and the one who trusts in him will never be put to shame."* (vs.32-33)

FINAL QUESTION: How do I know if I am one of God's chosen people?

ANSWER: By whether or not you have _____ Christ as your Savior!