



GRACE-POWERED LIVING

A Study of the Book of ROMANS

IS GOD UNFAIR? Romans 9:14-33

September 14, 2014 | 9:15 & 10:50am

Introduction: Today we are wading into deep, theological waters as we explore three common questions about predestination.

I. Definition of Terms

A. Calvinism

1. The definition of Calvinism:

Calvinism is a system of belief that emphasizes God's sovereign **choice** in salvation.

2. The teachings of Calvinism:

- **Total Depravity**
- **Unconditional** Election
- **Limited** Atonement
- **Irresistible** Grace
- **Perseverance** of the Saints

B. Arminianism

1. The definition of Arminianism:

Arminianism is a system of beliefs that acknowledges God's sovereignty but also emphasizes man's **responsibility** to exercise faith in salvation.

IS GOD UNFAIR?

2. The teachings of Arminianism:

Article I: God has chosen to save some on the basis of their faith in Christ.

Article II: Christ died for all people but only those who believe will experience the forgiveness of sins.

Article III: Man can do nothing good in and of himself including exercising faith in Christ apart from the regenerating work of the Holy Spirit.

Article IV: Although man cannot do anything good including believing in Christ apart from the grace of God, God's grace is not irresistible.

Article V: Whether those who are genuinely saved can ever be lost is uncertain and demands further study in Scripture.

II. The Doctrine of Election Illustrated (Romans 9:1-13)

Romans 1:16 "For I am not ashamed of the gospel, for it is the power of God for salvation to everyone who believes; to the Jew first and also to the Greek."

A. God Chose **Abraham** to be the Father of the Israelites (Romans 9:6-7a)

B. God Chose **Isaac** over Ishmael (Romans 9:7b-9)

C. God Chose **Jacob** over Esau (Romans 9:10-13)

III. The Doctrine of Election Questioned (Romans 9:14-33)

IS GOD UNFAIR?

A. "Isn't Election Unfair?" (Romans 9:14-18)

Romans 9:14 "What shall we say then? There is no injustice with God, is there? May it never be!"

Romans 9:15 "For He says to Moses, 'I WILL HAVE MERCY ON WHOM I HAVE MERCY, AND I WILL HAVE COMPASSION ON WHOM I HAVE COMPASSION.'"

1. God's **justice** demands that everyone be sentenced to Hell. (Romans 3:10-12)

Romans 3:10-12 "10 as it is written, 'THERE IS NONE RIGHTEOUS, NOT EVEN ONE; 11 THERE IS NONE WHO UNDERSTANDS, THERE IS NONE WHO SEEKS FOR GOD; 12 ALL HAVE TURNED ASIDE, TOGETHER THEY HAVE BECOME USELESS; THERE IS NONE WHO DOES GOOD, THERE IS NOT EVEN ONE.'"

2. God's **mercy** allows some to enter Heaven. (Romans 5:8-9)

Romans 5:8-9 "8 But God demonstrates His own love toward us, in that while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us. 9 Much more then, having been justified by His blood, we shall be saved from the wrath of God through Him."

Ephesians 1:11 "also we have obtained an inheritance, having been predestined according to His purpose who works all things after the counsel of His will,"

B. "Does God Predestine People for Hell?" (Romans 9:19-29)

Romans 9:19 "You will say to me then, 'Why does He still find fault? For who resists His will?'"

IS GOD UNFAIR?

1. Double predestination is **unnecessary** for God. (Romans 9:22-24)

Romans 9:22 "What if God, although willing to demonstrate His wrath and to make His power known, endured with much patience vessels of wrath prepared for destruction?"

Romans 9:23 "And He did so in order that He might make known the riches of His glory upon vessels of mercy, which He prepared beforehand for glory."

2. Double predestination is **uncharacteristic** of God. (1 Timothy 2:3-4; 2 Peter 3:9, Matthew 23:37)

Matthew 23:37 "O Jerusalem, Jerusalem, who kills the prophets and stones those who are sent to her! How often I wanted to gather your children together, the way a hen gathers her chicks under her wings, and you were unwilling."

- C. "Does Election Contradict Human Responsibility?" (Romans 9:30-33)

Romans 9:17-18 "¹⁷For the Scripture says to Pharaoh, 'FOR THIS VERY PURPOSE I RAISED YOU UP, TO DEMONSTRATE MY POWER IN YOU, AND THAT MY NAME MIGHT BE PROCLAIMED THROUGHOUT THE WHOLE EARTH.' ¹⁸So then He has mercy on whom He desires, and He hardens whom He desires."

Romans 9:30-32 "³⁰What shall we say then? That Gentiles, who did not pursue righteousness, attained righteousness, even the righteousness which is by faith; ³¹but Israel, pursuing a law of righteousness, did not arrive at that law. ³²Why? Because they did not pursue it by faith, but as though it were by works. They stumbled over THE STUMBLING STONE,"

Conclusion