



The Deep, Deep, Really Tough to Grasp Love of God

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ROMANS: The Righteousness
of God Revealed



“It used to appear like a horrible doctrine to me. From my childhood up, my mind had been full of objections against the doctrine of God’s sovereignty, in choosing whom he would to eternal life; and rejecting whom he pleased; leaving them eternally to perish, and be everlastingly tormented in hell.”

Jonathan Edwards



If God is not faithful to Israel there is no reason for us to trust him. Paul continues to insist that God is completely trustworthy, and the basis of our trusting Him is recognizing God for who He actually is. Here is a foundational truth: If we trust in Jesus it's because God, in his infinite wisdom and freedom, has already chosen us.




**Those who seek righteousness
on their own will never find it.**

A silhouette of a person standing on a hill, looking up at a sunset sky. The person's right arm is raised. The sky is a mix of orange, yellow, and blue. There are trees on either side of the person.

Romans 9:30-33

[30] What shall we say, then? That Gentiles who did not pursue righteousness have attained it, that is, a righteousness that is by faith; [31] but that Israel who pursued a law that would lead to righteousness did not succeed in reaching that law. [32] Why? Because they did not pursue it by faith, but as if it were based on works. They have stumbled over the stumbling stone, [33] as it is written, “Behold, I am laying in Zion a stone of stumbling, and a rock of offense; and whoever believes in him will not be put to shame.”

A silhouette of a person standing on a hill, looking up at a sunset sky. The person is in the center, with their right arm raised. To the left and right are silhouettes of trees. The foreground is a dark, textured path leading towards the horizon.

**Only those chosen by God
experience his righteousness.**



Israel

elect

the rest

A silhouette of a person standing on a hill, looking up at a sunset sky. The person's right arm is raised. The sky is a mix of orange, yellow, and blue. There are trees on either side of the person.

Romans 9:6-29

[6] But it is not as though the word of God has failed. For not all who are descended from Israel belong to Israel, [7] and not all are children of Abraham because they are his offspring, but “Through Isaac shall your offspring be named.”

[8] This means that it is not the children of the flesh who are the children of God, but the children of the promise are counted as offspring.

[9] For this is what the promise said: “About this time next year I will return, and Sarah shall have a son.” [10] And not only so, but also when

Rebekah had conceived children by one man, our forefather Isaac,



Romans 9:6-29

[11] though they were not yet born and had done nothing either good or bad—in order that God's purpose of election might continue, not because of works but because of him who calls—[12] she was told, “The older will serve the younger.” [13] As it is written, “Jacob I loved, but Esau I hated.”

[14] What shall we say then? Is there injustice on God's part? By no means! [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.” [16] So then it depends not on human will or exertion, but on God, who has mercy.

A silhouette of a person standing on a hill, looking up with one hand raised, against a sunset sky. Two trees are visible on either side of the person.

Romans 9:6-29

[17] For the Scripture says to Pharaoh, “For this very purpose I have raised you up, that I might show my power in you, and that my name might be proclaimed in all the earth.” [18] So then he has mercy on whomever he wills, and he hardens whomever he wills. [19] You will say to me then, “Why does he still find fault? For who can resist his will?” [20] But who are you, O man, to answer back to God? Will what is molded say to its molder, “Why have you made me like this?” [21] Has the potter no right over the clay, to make out of the same lump one vessel for honorable use and another for dishonorable use?

A silhouette of a person standing on a hill, looking up with arms raised, against a sunset sky. The scene is framed by two trees on either side.

Romans 9:6-29

[22] What if God, desiring to show his wrath and to make known his power, has endured with much patience vessels of wrath prepared for destruction, [23] in order to make known the riches of his glory for vessels of mercy, which he has prepared beforehand for glory—[24] even us whom he has called, not from the Jews only but also from the Gentiles? [25] As indeed he says in Hosea, “Those who were not my people I will call ‘my people,’ and her who was not beloved I will call ‘beloved.’” [26] “And in the very place where it was said to them, ‘You are not my people,’ there they will be called ‘sons of the living God.’”

A silhouette of a person standing on a hill, looking out over a landscape at sunset. The sky is a mix of orange and blue, and there are trees on either side of the person.

Romans 9:6-29

[27] And Isaiah cries out concerning Israel:
“Though the number of the sons of Israel be as
the sand of the sea, only a remnant of them will
be saved, [28] for the Lord will carry out his
sentence upon the earth fully and without delay.”
[29] And as Isaiah predicted, “If the Lord of hosts
had not left us offspring, we would have been
like Sodom and become like Gomorrah.”



Grace=God's Unmerited Favor


**God offers
us the
opportunity
to trust in
Jesus**

**God
chose
us to
believe
in Jesus**

A silhouette of a person standing on a hill, raising their right hand in a gesture of praise or prayer. The background is a sunset sky with soft, warm colors. Two trees are visible on either side of the person.

Ephesians 2:8-9

[8] For by grace you have been saved through faith. And this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God, [9] not a result of works, so that no one may boast.



**Those not chosen were
hardened by God to the gospel.**



Why is it so difficult to accept election?

- It seems impossible to reasonably connect God's choosing with human responsibility.



Romans 10:1

[1] Brothers, my heart's desire and prayer to God for them is that they may be saved.

A silhouette of a person standing on a hill, with their right arm raised in a gesture of praise or prayer. The background is a sunset sky with soft, warm colors. Two trees are visible on either side of the person, and the foreground is dark, suggesting a path or field.

Romans 10:21

[21] But of Israel he says, “All day long I have held out my hands to a disobedient and contrary people.”



Why is it so difficult to accept election?

- It seems impossible to reasonably connect God's choosing with human responsibility.
- It appears to make God unjust.



Why it's important for us to continue to ponder (embrace) God's choosing.

- Gives us the most accurate picture of who God actually is.
- Encourages us to not be intellectually lazy in our walk with Christ.
- Helps us understand more fully how much credit God deserves for our salvation.
- Builds a gratefulness, peace, confidence and boldness that cannot be as fully experienced without it.