



Discussion Questions • Abbotsford

Title of Sermon: The Difficult Doctrine of Election - Part 2

Passage: Romans 9:19-29

Intro -

1. After having a couple weeks to think about the doctrine of election, what have you learned that you didn't know before?
2. What are the biggest questions that you have in your mind about what Paul is teaching in Romans 9?

Sermon Points -

1. The Preliminaries
 - a. Have you ever changed your mind about a theological idea?
 - i. How did it happen?
 - ii. How long did it take?
 - iii. What is your view now about what you used to believe?
 - iv. How do you handle conversations with people who hold the view you used to believe?
 - b. Are your objections about what Paul is teaching in Romans 9 more about how you think this passage should be interpreted differently or about how this passage squares with other passages of Scripture?
 - i. What other passages of Scripture seem to counter what Paul is saying about election in Romans 9?
2. The Passage
 - a. Why do you think Paul doesn't answer the question in Romans 9:19, but instead accuses the questioner of "talking back" to God?
 - i. What is his point here?
 - ii. How is this a similar situation to what happened to Job when God spoke to him out of the whirlwind in Job 38?
 - b. What is your answer to Paul's question in verse 21 when he asks about the potter having the right over the clay?
 - i. Does God have a right to make "objects of wrath" and "objects of mercy" (vv. 22-23)?
 - ii. Why is this difficult to accept?



- c. How is God glorified in judging Pharaoh and other “objects of wrath”?
 - i. How is he glorified in showing mercy to “objects of mercy” who deserve what Pharaoh got, but who don’t receive it?
 - ii. How is God’s glory more important to him than saving people? Is it?
- d. How do verses 22-23 answer questions about why God made a world where he knew people would sin and where he would judge some and save others?

3. The Points

- a. Do you feel that you need to solve the tension between passages like Romans 9 that emphasize God’s sovereignty and other passages that emphasize the responsibility of people to believe and act in faith?
 - i. Why or why not?
 - ii. How does an emphasis on divine sovereignty sometimes diminish what the Bible clearly says about human responsibility?
 - iii. How does an emphasis on human responsibility sometimes diminish what the Bible clearly says about divine sovereignty?
- b. How does the doctrine of election cause you to worship?
 - i. If it doesn’t cause you to worship God, why not?
- c. How does the knowledge that you should have been treated like Pharaoh or the “objects of wrath”, but you have instead been treated with mercy and grace *affect* you? How should it affect you?

OPTIONAL

Was there anything not discussed that stuck out to you from the sermon?

Wrap Up and Prayer

From your discussion, what resonated with you individually or as a group? Pray for each other along with other requests.