

# GOD'S SELECTION: CHOOSING HIS CHILDREN

(Romans 9:6-13, 24-28)

## Introduction:

How might you approach a needed repair?

Ignore it      Smooth it over      Attack it until it is resolved

How do you approach a difficult passage in scripture?

Skip over it      Smooth it over      Work at understanding it

Romans 9 has some difficult words about God selecting His children. How will we respond to God's revelation?

1. Will we deny it?
2. Will we modify it, to make God fit our ideas?
3. Will we accept it and appreciate who God really is to us?

## God's Selection: An Act Ex\_\_\_\_\_ in History (6-10,13)

Our concept of God should be derived from:

1. His w\_\_\_\_\_ (how He has acted in history)
2. His w\_\_\_\_\_ (what He has revealed)

Paul argues that God's selection process has not changed

1. God selected A\_\_\_\_\_ (v. 7)
2. Of Abraham's immediate children, God chose I\_\_\_\_\_, even though Ishmael was Abraham's firstborn (vv. 7-9).
3. Of Isaac's immediate children, God chose J\_\_\_\_\_, even though Esau was the firstborn (vv. 10,13)

a. Paul quotes Mal 1:2 to describe God's choice (*Jacob I loved, but Esau I hated*)

1) The term "hate" has a softened meaning when two relationships are

c\_\_\_\_\_

a) We are commanded not to hate our enemies but love them (Lk 6:27); yet Jesus states that we cannot be His disciples if we do not hate our f\_\_\_\_\_ members (Lk 14:26).

The point - our earthly relationships are to be s\_\_\_\_\_ to our relationship with Christ.

The practice - we still are to love our family members, but not to the same degree as we are to love the Lord.

b) Jacob was t\_\_\_\_\_ into marrying Leah and eventually married the person he really loved, Rachel. Leah is described as unloved (literally, hated), yet she bore him children (Gen 29:31-33).

The point - Leah was not Jacob's wife of c\_\_\_\_\_, Rachel was.

His practice - Jacob preferred Rachel, not Leah.

2) God's l\_\_\_\_\_ for Jacob was redemptive (He CHOSE Jacob, not Esau).

- b. God eventually changed Jacob's name to I \_\_\_\_\_
  - 1) His descendants m \_\_\_\_\_ greatly (v. 27a)
  - 2) God saved only a r \_\_\_\_\_ (v. 27b)

**God's Selection: An Act Ex \_\_\_\_\_ by Grace (11,12)**

God's selection is not based on w \_\_\_\_\_

1. When did God select Jacob?
  - a. God announced His selection BEFORE Jacob was b \_\_\_\_\_ (while in the womb – Gen 25:21-23)
  - b. God made His selection AFTER Jacob had fathered most of his children (see Gen 28:20,21; 35:1,9-15)
2. Some WRONGLY reason that God chooses people to be His children based on what He f \_\_\_\_\_
  - a. God's choice is based on His foreknowledge (I Pet 1:1,2), which does NOT mean what He foresees.
    - 1) Foreseeing looks into the f \_\_\_\_\_ where foreknowledge looks into the p \_\_\_\_\_
    - 2) Foreknowledge refers to a prior decision (fore) to know someone personally (know) – see sermon on Rom 8:28-30: *God's Recipe for His Undefeatable Plan, Ingredient #1.*
  - b. God's choice is based on His past decision not foreseen future conditions.

Other supporting verses

1. Jn 1:12,13 – when we r \_\_\_\_\_ Jesus, we become God's child; but it solely due to God's w \_\_\_\_\_.
2. Eph 2:8,9 – for by g \_\_\_\_\_ you have been saved through faith, and that not of yours \_\_\_\_\_.
3. I Cor 1:30,31 – for by His d \_\_\_\_\_, you are in Christ.

**God's Selection: An Act Ex \_\_\_\_\_ Today (24-28)**

Paul witnessed the prophecy of Hosea 1:10; 2:23 being fulfilled as he spread the gospel to the G \_\_\_\_\_ (vv. 24-26)

Paul was looking forward to God's finished work of saving the remnant of the s \_\_\_\_\_ of Israel (v. 27)

We see God at work today saving people from all walks of life

1. Abroad – China (thousands daily); Muslims (hundreds); new people groups are being engaged monthly that bring in a harvest.
2. Here – over the past 30 years, our church has seen people come to Christ spanning every decade of life (under 10, teens, 20's, 30's, 40's, 50's, 60's, 70's, 80's)

**Conclusion:**

Why do you personally love the Lord? (Rom 5:8; I Jn 4:19) – because He first l \_\_\_\_\_ you.

Why did you receive Christ? – because He c \_\_\_\_\_ you.

*If you have not received Christ, my prayer is for your salvation. He ALONE is the only one who can save you.*