

The Truth That Transforms: The Book Of Romans
“The Truth About God’s Sovereignty” Romans 9:1-33
Cornerstone Church of Poway
Pastor Ed Turley
September 12, 2021

Big Idea: If we want real life change, we must allow God’s Word to transform us.

God’s Sovereignty And Our Freewill: God is all wise, all powerful and has a divine plan to save the world. In the complexity of God’s plan, He gave mankind the freedom and responsibility to make moral choices with blessings for obedience and painful consequences for disobedience. All of us have sinned and fallen short of God’s holiness and are therefore unable to save ourselves. God being just and merciful sent His one and only son Jesus to pay for our sins upon the cross. God offers the gift of salvation through faith in Jesus Christ to all who believe. We have the responsibility to either accept or reject His gracious offer of salvation.

The Truth About God’s Sovereignty:

1. God Initiates His Divine Plan To Save The World Through The Jewish People

“For those God foreknew he also predestined to be conformed to the likeness of his Son, that he might be the firstborn among many brothers. And those he predestined, he also called; those he called, he also justified; those he justified, he also glorified.” **Romans 8:29-30 (NIV)**

“I speak the truth in Christ--I am not lying, my conscience confirms it in the Holy Spirit-- I have **great sorrow and unceasing anguish in my heart**. For I could wish that I myself were cursed and cut off from Christ for the sake of **my brothers**, those of **my own race, the people of Israel**. Theirs is the **adoption** as sons; theirs the **divine glory**, the covenants, the receiving of the law, the temple worship and **the promises**. Theirs are the patriarchs, and from them is traced the human **ancestry of Christ, who is God over all, forever praised!** Amen.

Romans 9:1-5 (NIV)

“It is not as though God's word had failed. For not all who are **descended** from Israel are Israel. Nor because they are his descendants are they all Abraham's **children**. On the contrary, "It is through **Isaac** that your **offspring** will be reckoned." In other words, it is not the natural children who are **God's children**, but it is the **children of the promise** who are regarded as Abraham's offspring. For this was how **the promise** was stated: "At the appointed time I will return, and Sarah will have a son." **Romans 9:6-9 (NIV)**

Not only that, but **Rebekah's children** had one and the same father, our father Isaac. Yet, before the twins were born or had done anything good or bad--in order that God's purpose in **election** might stand: **not by works but by him who calls--she was told, "The older will serve the younger."** **Just as it is written: "Jacob I loved, but Esau I hated."**

Romans 9:6-13 (NIV) [Malachi 1:1-5 – Two Nations: Jacob – Israel and Esau the Edomites.]

2. Even When We Don’t Understand, God Is Consistent With His Character

“What then shall we say? **Is God unjust? Not at all!** 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. 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." **Romans 9:14-17 (NIV)**

Therefore God has mercy on whom he wants to have mercy, and he hardens whom he wants to harden. One of you will say to me: "**Then why does God still blame us? For who resists his will?**" 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?'" 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**? **Romans 9:18-21 (NIV)**

Do you think that I like to see wicked people die? says the Sovereign LORD.

Of course not! I want them to **turn** from their wicked ways and **live**. **Ezekiel 18:23 (NLT2)**

Don't tear your clothing in your grief, but tear your hearts instead." Return to the LORD your God, for he is merciful and compassionate, slow to get angry and filled with unfailing love. He is eager to relent and not punish. **Joel 2:13 (NLT2)**

Or do you show contempt for the riches of His **kindness, tolerance and patience**, not realizing that **God's kindness leads you toward repentance**? But because of your **stubbornness** and your **unrepentant heart, you are storing up wrath** against yourself for the day of God's wrath, when his righteous judgment will be revealed. God "will give to each person **according to what he has done**." To those who by persistence in doing good seek glory, honor and immortality, **he will give eternal life**. But for those who are **self-seeking** and **who reject the truth and follow evil, there will be wrath and anger**. There will be trouble and distress for every human being who does evil: first for the Jew, then for the Gentile; but glory, honor and peace for everyone who does good: first for the Jew, then for the Gentile.

For God does not show favoritism. Romans 2:4-11 (NIV)

The Lord is not slow in keeping his promise, as some understand slowness. He is patient with you, not wanting **anyone** to perish, but **everyone** to come to repentance. **2 Peter 3:9 (NIV)**

3. God Offers Salvation Through Faith

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**? 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.'"

Romans 9:22-26 (NIV)

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, we would have been like Gomorrah**."

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?** 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**."

Romans 9:27-33 (NIV)

For it is **by grace** you have been saved, **through faith**--and this not from yourselves, it is the **gift** of God-- not by works, so that no one can boast. **Ephesians 2:8-9 (NIV)**

➤ **How are you responding to God's kindness, tolerance, and patience?**

My next right step, I will trust in God's sovereignty by:

Continuing or beginning to journal through the Romans devotional

Studying the Talk It Over notes with a friend

Volunteering to serve: Children's Ministry Café First Impressions

Accepting Jesus as my Lord and Savior

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Icebreaker for families: What are three of the best choices you have ever made?
What is one choice you would like a do-over?

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The Truth About God’s Sovereignty:

1. God Initiates His Divine Plan To Save The World Through The Jewish People

Read Romans 8:29-30

To whom is this written? Who acts first, God or us?

What is God’s purpose in calling us?

Read Romans 9:1-5

What is a particular group or person you have a heart for?

What do you learn about God choosing Israel? What purpose did they fulfil that other nations did not?

Read Romans 9:6-9

According to this passage, who are God’s children?

What do you remember about the story of Abraham, Sarah, and Isaac?

What were some of the highs and lows of Abraham’s choices?

Read Romans 9:6-13

What do you remember about the story of Jacob and Esau?

Would you have chosen either one to be in the ancestral line of Jesus? Why or why not?

Read Malachi 1:1-5

What is this passage referring to?

2. Even When We Don't Understand, God Is Consistent With His Character

Read Romans 9:14-21

How is God's sovereignty described here?

Have you experienced God's mercy? How has that affected you?

Read Ezekiel 18:23

What do you learn about God's Character?

What does God want from us?

Read Joel 2:13

What do you learn about God's Character?

What does God want from us?

Read Romans 2:4-11

What do you learn about God's Character?

What does God want from us?

What are the consequences if we refuse to repent?

Does God randomly choose favorites? Verse 11

Read 2 Peter 3:9

What is God's desire for everyone?

3. God Offers Salvation Through Faith

Read Romans 9:22-26

What does God foretell about the future?

Who initiates the relationship, us or God?

Read Romans 9:27-33

What do you learn about God's character when mankind is stubborn and rebellious?

Where did the Jewish people go wrong?

What is so wrong with trying to make things right with God by doing works?

Where have you stumbled in your relationship with Jesus?

What promise is in verse 33?

Read Ephesians 2:8-9

How are we saved?

How are you responding to God's kindness, tolerance, and patience?