

# The Facilitator

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Community Groups @ Trinity Presbyterian Church

5/6/18

**Text: Romans 9:9-26 (ESV)**

**Title: God's Sovereign Grace**

**Teacher: Tim Rice**

## **Surrender through Prayer:**

*Surrender through prayers for Illumination and Transformation, asking that Jesus would meet with you in this time.*

## **Engage with the Sermon**

*Read the passage together*

In his sermon, Tim led us through the middle of Romans chapter 9, one of the thorniest passages in scripture as it speaks directly to God's sovereignty (creator and ruler of EVERYTHING), and to God's mercy and election (that salvation is 100% dependent on Him, not us). In our brokenness and sin, rather than bowing to God's rule, we have placed God and His word on trial, as if we get to determine whether His word is true, and whether He has the right to do what He does. As Tim said, the great question we need to ask ourselves from this text is, "Do you stand over God's word, or does God's word stand over you?" Does God have the authority to declare something to be true, even if you don't like it or understand it, or do you stand in judgment over God and His word, telling God He's wrong? The amazing reality of the Gospel is that God, in His mercy, not only gives us His word, He gives us Himself in Jesus. Our salvation and calling are completely dependent on Him, therefore we can be completely humble (because God has done it all) and completely secure (because we didn't earn it, we can't lose it), and we can live our lives as vessels for God's love and mercy to everyone.

## **Reflection Questions:**

- 1. Tim asked the Question, "Do you respect what God is doing, even when you don't like it, or understand it?". Like modern-day sports, we want to strip the coach of all authority and demand they do things our way, and we do the same with God.*
  - How does it strike you to hear that God is completely in charge of everything?**
  - What's hard or scary about letting God and His word rule over you?**
- 2. Because of our sin, in the face of God's sovereign authority, we become resentful and defiant, demanding that God owes us an explanation for what He does. As finite human beings, we foolishly expect to be able to understand the actions of an infinite God.*
  - When in your life have you felt like God owed you an explanation?**
  - How do you bring your questions, pain or confusion under God's goodness and authority?**
- 3. In his sovereignty and mercy, God saves His enemies and makes them His children, so that they could be humble and secure in Him, and vessels of His love and mercy.*
  - How would a sense of humility and security in God, help you to be more loving and merciful toward others?**
  - What would it look like to be less demanding of your own way, and resting in God's control over everything?**

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## **WORSHIP AND PRAYER:**

### **A.C.T.S.**

*(Spend time in prayer and worship as you consider Adoring God the Father, Confessing your sin and weakness, giving thanks to Jesus, and asking Holy Spirit to transform you. Use this as a time to talk to God about what's been revealed in your heart from this sermon.)*

**1. ADORATION** *(The Father)*

***Adore and Worship God for His attributes and actions***

**2. CONFESSION** *(Me)*

***Spend time Confessing sin and ways in which you are finite and limited***

**3. THANKSGIVING** *(Jesus)*

***Give thanks to Jesus for his salvation (past, present, future)***

**4. SUPPLICATION** *(Holy Spirit)*

***Ask Holy Spirit to transform you in specific ways***

**5. Prepare for Gospel Community** *(My Neighbor)*

***Pray for those who are on your heart, that God would use you to impact them with His gospel message.***

### **Prayer Items**

- 1. Worship the LORD for His sovereign grace. Praise Him, Father, Son and Holy Spirit that He is infinite AND merciful - that He applies all of His power, knowledge and love to save sinners like us.*
- 2. How have you lived as if God owes you an explanation - as if you are the judge and He is on trial before you? Confess your pride and rebellion to Jesus, asking Him to forgive you and have mercy upon you.*
- 3. Give thanks to Jesus for the mystery of His willingness to come under all of the judgment we deserve in order to save us. Thank Him, the Power, for being willing to be broken like clay so that we could be made whole.*
- 4. Who do you know that is bewildered by God's power or resentful of His authority? Pray for them, asking the Lord to have mercy upon them (as He has had on you) to open their eyes to His goodness and grace!*
- 5. Ask the Holy Spirit to help you bow before God in His holiness and sovereignty. Ask for help in your groaning before profound, heavy considerations, even as He is worthy of all loyalty and trust.*