

Sermon Discussion Questions

God's Got This

Romans 9:6-18

July 29, 2018

1. The first point Jeremy made regarding how people are saved by God was that it is not because it is our birthright, but it is because of God's promise. What do people rely on other than God's promises hoping to be with God forever? Are there any "birthrights" people cling to (something because of their birth, or what happened when they were a small child or an infant)?
 - a. Roleplay how you would witness to someone who is relying on a "birthright." Tell them about the promises of God: Someone act like it is because they were baptized as an infant that they know they are going to heaven; and the other person try and show them that they are not right and that it is because of God's promises (use John 1:12-13; John 3:16; Ephesians 2:8-9; and 1 John 5:11-13).
 - b. According to these passages what secures us in God's family: Romans 4:16-17; 8:15-16; 2 Corinthians 1:21-22; 5:5; Galatians 4:4-7; Ephesians 1:5-6, 13-14.
2. Jeremy described "loved" and "hated" in Romans 9:13 by explaining the actions God took toward Jacob and Esau. The actions God took toward Jacob was to use him to fulfill God's eternal plans. Therefore, the opposite treatment toward Esau was to reject him to be a part of God's salvation plan in the world. How might that concept apply to us today? Or, how (and why) might God use us as a part of His salvation plan today and not use others? And, how might that carry with it that feeling like God is loving us and hating others?
3. Here is that quote from Dr. Ken Wilson, "God's control over the future is determined by a foreknowledge of human choices. Divine election is in part a function of this foreknowledge. The manner in which God will determine and govern a human life is fixed by an awareness of the ways in which freedom will be exercised." Ken Wilson, M.D. D. Phil. *Augustine's Conversion from Traditional Free Choice to "Non-free Free Will: A Comprehensive Methodology."*
 - a. What is challenging to you about this quote? How does this help avoid determinism (that God determines (bordering on makes us do) everything we will do)?
 - b. How can we hold to this view without ascribing to "Open Theism" which says that God reacts to our free choices and is governed by them to the point where He chooses to limit His knowledge of the future so that He can relate and react to our freedom? Why is this wrong? Or is it? (*Deep – I know. If it's too deep you can skip it if you want.*)
4. Read about Pharaoh's hard heart and identify who is doing the hardening of it: Exodus 7:22; 8:15; 8:19; 8:32; 9:7; 9:12; 9:34; 10:1; 10:20; 10:27; 11:10. And what is this all based on according to Exodus 3:19-20 (hint: remember foreknowledge and predestination)?
 - a. Jeremy mentioned that God uses our hard-hearted ancestors so that we would be born and end up in glory with Him. How does that strike you? Is that okay in your mind? Why or why not?
 - b. Why do we tend to keep God off the throne of our lives? And how do we keep God off the throne in our lives? If we keep Him on the throne of our lives what will be the result?