

"The Constitution of the Christian Faith"

II. God's Passion For Israel:

- vv10-13 A. God has chosen to love Israel, and bless them. Gen 25:19-34; Mal 1:2,3
1. It is His sovereign right to choose to love whom He wills.
 2. God is not unrighteous. 1 John 1:5
- v15 B. God chooses to be merciful to whom He wills. Exodus 32:25-35; 33:12-23; 34:1-10.
1. God would be perfectly righteous if He chose to be merciful to no-one.
 2. All men are deserving of nothing except eternal separation from God. Rom 3:10-19, Isa 53:6; (blotted out of the book of the living Ps 69:28).
- v15,16 3. Man's response to the mercy of God (as revealed by the preaching of the Word) is the vehicle to salvation. Rom 10:9,10,13,17. Titus 3:5
- v17 4. The example of Pharaoh : Exodus 8:15,32; 9:16,34; 10:1
- v18 5. As the same sun's heat has a different affect on two different elements (the heat melts the snow, yet hardens the clay), so God's Word has a similar affect on different types of hearts. 2 Cor 2:14-16
- The condition of a person's heart at any given time is dependent on many factors, such as :
- a. Character and type of personality from birth. Ps 139:13-16
 - b. Life experiences, family, parental nurturing.
 - c. Present circumstances.
 - d. God's supernatural intervention (usually invoked by prayer) Matt 9:35-38, 1 Tim 2:1-8, Ps 145:18-20, Luke 6:28, 22:32,
- v19 C. If God has absolute control, then how can He find fault in man?
1. Man has no right to question God's plan or methods.
 2. Man does not have the wisdom to fully understand God's plan. Rom 11:32-36
 3. The creation is totally subject to the will of the creator.
 4. The creation would not even exist, if not for the will of the creator.
- v23 5. The purpose is to show the riches of His glory on the vessels of mercy.
- v25-29 D. God's will shall be accomplished, and His kingdom shall be established.
1. Unbelieving Israel will believe. God will lift the blindness. Rom 11:25-27
 2. Unfaithful Israel will be faithful. God will love and forgive. Hos 2:23
 3. God will finish His work.
 4. A remnant will be saved. Isa 10:20-23

III. God's Passion For All Nations.

- A. That all would come to Him by faith.
1. The Gentiles , who believe by faith, have been made the children of God. Acts 28:25-29; Isaiah 11:10, 42:6, 49:6,22
 2. The Jews, who try to keep the law, have not been reconciled to God because they are trusting in their own efforts to make themselves sons of God.
 3. "Whoever" believes on the "Rock" shall not be put to shame. (disgraced) Stumbling Stone = "occasion of apostasy" "to trip up"
- B. *"For God so loved the world, that He gave His only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in Him should not perish, but have everlasting life" John 3:16*
- C. *"The Lord is not slack concerning His promise, as some men count slackness; but is longsuffering to us-ward, not willing that any should perish, but that all should come to repentance". 2 Peter 3:9*