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God, through His Son Jesus, provides eternal grace for our failures and human limitations.

Election And God's Sovereign Will.

(2013)

The Bible not only reveals God's eternal plans purposes and promises
But also shows how you can know God for yourself.

Teach it, don't demand it.

Although I believe my aim is pure and God's will perfect this document is still the product of a human man. As to such I neither claim special knowledge or perfect understanding.

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Election and God's Sovereign Will.

Topics.

- Jacob I loved, but Esau I hated.
- I will have mercy on whom I have mercy.
- God has mercy on whomever he wills, and he hardens whomever he wills.

Jacob I Loved, but Esau I Hated.

Romans 9:11-13 ----- ¹¹though they (Esau and Jacob) were not yet born and had done nothing either good or bad—in order that God's purpose of election might continue, not because of works but because of his call— ¹²she (Rebecca) was told, "The older (Esau) will serve the younger (Jacob)." ¹³As it is written, "Jacob I loved, but Esau I hated."

Election: comes from the Greek word (ekloge) in this context it means a divine selection, divinely chosen, to select, to make a choice and to choose out of.

Call: comes from the Greek word (kaleo) and the context of these verses means to call forth bid or urge.

Hated: comes from the Greek word (miseo) and means to detest (especially to persecute) and by extension to love less.

The words, "Jacob I loved, but Esau I hated" is cited from the following verse of Malachi: -

- I have loved you (Israel), says the LORD. But you say, "How have you loved us?" "Is not Esau Jacob's brother?" declares the LORD. "Yet I have loved Jacob, but Esau I have hated. I have laid waste his hill country and left his heritage to jackals of the desert (Malachi 1:2-3).

Obviously this is not written not at the birth of Jacob and Esau, but long after Esau's death. Rebecca when she gave birth to Esau and Jacob was only told that the older (Esau) will serve the younger (Jacob) it is only at the very end of the Old Testament that Malachi wrote the words, "Jacob I loved and Esau I have hated."

God in his eternal foreknowledge already knows the future of mankind's history this is why Bible prophecy is so exact and why God could say to Rebecca that the older (Esau) will serve the younger (Jacob). The LORD'S eyes are not limited by time as ours are, he sees the past, present and future since His eyes are eternal and are therefore not bound by time as ours are.

Clearly God in his eternal foreknowledge saw that Esau would: -

- Place such little value on his birthright as the first born (a great honour and privilege came with being the first born son) that he sold his privileged inheritance for a bowl of food.
- Take Egyptian women for wives contrary to the will of God.
- Not have the same passion for God as Jacob did.
- Despise God's name and not fear or show Him honour.

When the LORD through the prophet Malachi said, "I have loved you" He was referring to the priests and the nation of Israel, but because of their gross sin and wickedness their nation is not prospering so they say, "But how have you loved us?" The LORD then points out that Jacob and Esau are brothers yet He chose Jacob who they are descents of and not Esau.

God is comparing the priests of Israel to Jacob and Esau. Esau was Jacob's older brother (the firstborn) and had the right to the inheritance, blessings and promises, yet God rejected Esau because he placed no value on his inheritance and was indifferent to what mattered to God, so God chose Jacob.

The Old Testament priests were descendants of Jacob and had an exalted and privileged position. It is in this way God had loved the priests, but at the time of Malachi the Priest despised God's name and did not fear or show him honour (Malachi 1:6).

Paul in his letter is saying to the New Testament Israelites that just because they are born of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob does not guarantee God's favour. He is warning them that just as God rejected Esau and the Old Testament priests who had the rights to the inheritance, He will also reject them as He did Esau if they do not show Him due honour.

I will have Mercy on Whom I have Mercy.

Romans 9:14-15 ----- ¹⁴What shall we say then? Is there injustice on God's part? By no means! ¹⁵For he says to Moses, "I will have mercy on whom I have mercy, and I will have compassion on whom I have compassion." ¹⁶So then it depends not on human will or exertion, but on God, who has mercy.

Mercy: means compassion, pity and steadfast love.

Paul is saying to the Israelites and especially the Priests that God is not bound by birthright race or position and that the priest's should not think that their position or ministry guarantees them the inheritance. Paul in these verses is using Esau and the Old Testament priests at the time of Malachi as an example of these truths. The following verses show that the LORD the God of heaven, the great and awesome God, the faithful God keeps His covenant and shows his mercy and steadfast love to: -

- Thousands who love him, and keep his commandments (Exod. 20:6) (Deut. 5:10).
- Those who listen to his rules and keep and do them (Deut. 7:12).
- Those who walk before the LORD in faithfulness, in righteousness, and in uprightness of heart (1 Kings 3:6).
- Those that walk before the LORD with all their heart (1 Kings 8:23).
- Those who fear the LORD from generation to generation (Luke 1:50)

These verses shine a spotlight on the truth that God shows mercy to all who love Him and does what is right and good and do all they can to live their life in a manner that brings honour to God. They also show that God's mercy will always be toward those who are faithful and have an honest heart of integrity before Him in contrast to hypocrisy and pretence. The following verses show that though the LORD is longsuffering and of great mercy and steadfast love forgiving iniquity and transgression of many He will not show mercy to: -

- The guilty, but visits the iniquity of the fathers upon the children unto the third and fourth generation (Num. 14:18).

The following are five examples of this principal: -

1. Our global governments have borrowed so much money the world is grossly in debt, future generations are going to suffer because of it.
2. Our governments have done nothing to protect the earth and its environment future generations are going to suffer because of it.
3. Multinational companies out of greed for greater profit have polluted our planet and our waters future generations are going to suffer because of it.

4. Global governments have removed God from schools and replaced Him with the teaching of evolution future generations are going to grow up not knowing there is a God.
5. Nations have invented nuclear and chemical weapons of mass destruction that have the potential to destroy the earth and its populations future generations are going to live in fear and suffer because of this.

Nor will the LORD show mercy to: -

- Those who show no mercy to others (James 2:13)

These verses show that God does not show mercy to those who are guilty, clearly we are all guilty sin before God, but the guilty in focus here are those who do not have a repent heart, those who deliberately and consciously deny God and those who live a lifestyle of lies, deceit, wickedness and use and oppress others for their own greedy gain.

In contrast to this God forgives the iniquity of those who love God, have a repent heart and endeavour to live a life that honours Him.

James: in the following verse shines a brilliant spotlight on the glory of God's judgment: -

- Judgment is without mercy to one who has shown no mercy. Mercy triumphs over judgment (James 2:13)

This is the glory of the immortal, invisible Almighty God who created all things and who is the source of all life, to those who show no mercy God will show no mercy, but to the ones who show mercy to others God will show them mercy on the Day of Judgment.

Paul wrote to Titus: -

- God saved us, not because of works done by us in righteousness, but according to his own mercy, by the washing of regeneration and renewal of the Holy Spirit (Titus 3:5)

Paul is teaching the New Testament Israelites that God's mercy is in not dependent on human effort, but on the condition of the heart those who desire to walk before the LORD with mercy faithfulness and honest integrity in their heart trusting in the Lord Jesus Christ for righteousness and salvation will receive mercy.

God has Mercy on Whomever He Wills, and He Hardens Whomever He Wills.

Romans 9:17-18 ----- ¹⁷For the Scripture says to Pharaoh, "For this very purpose I have raised you up, that I might show my power in you, and that my name might be proclaimed in all the earth." ¹⁸So then he has mercy on whomever he wills, and he hardens whomever he wills.

This verse could be written, "For the Scripture says to Pharaoh, "For this very purpose I have allowed you to live, that I might show my power in you, and that my name might be proclaimed in all the earth." Paul uses the story of Pharaoh to teach the Israelites that God's mercy is not bound just because a person is a king and has enormous authority, power and riches.

He is highlighting the following truth to the Israelites that just because a person is head authority and ruler of the world does not guarantee them God's mercy. This is because God has mercy on who He chooses to show mercy to, no one has power over God.

Paul is teaching the Israelites and by extension all of us that God is not forced by anyone no matter how great in power, authority and riches they maybe or even if they are born a direct descendant of Abraham, or a Hebrew or Jew, nor is God forced stow his mercy upon a person because they are a Levitical high priest or even the religious Pope of the world.

God chooses who He will show mercy to according to a person's heart condition and according to their behaviour and not according to birth, power, or how well they have strictly adhered to ceremonial rites, holy days or according to how legalistically they may have kept religious customs and traditions.

The Bible says: -

- Pharaoh hardened his heart four times.

(Exod. 8:15) (Exod.8:32) (Exod. 9:34 1) (Sam. 6:6).

- The LORD hardened Pharaoh's heart six times.

(Exod. 9:12) (Exod. 10:1, 20, 27) (Exod. 11:10) (Exod. 14:8).

Pharaoh was a man of extreme pride, being a king of Egypt he could not submit to a renegade Hebrew. It could be said that human nature is so designed that self, pride and ego produce hardness of heart and stubbornness, but because God created all things including the laws of the universe and the human heart. It could also be equally stated that God hardens the heart of a person full of self, pride and ego and makes them stubborn.

- Yet they did not listen to me or incline their ear, but stiffened their neck (meaning made themselves prideful and proud) (Jer. 7:26).

This verse shows that people harden their own hearts when they are prideful and do not accept or listen to God or His law.

- When his (Nebuchadnezzar) heart was lifted up (full of pride) and his spirit was hardened so that he dealt proudly (Dan. 5:20).

This verse shows that Nebuchadnezzar king of Babylon extreme pride is what caused his heart to be hardened. A prideful person will not be told what to do, or take advice or correction from others that they consider less important and inferior to themselves which means an extremely prideful person will not take correction from anyone because they see themselves as superior and the top of the tree and everyone else below them.

- Jesus entered the synagogue and for three months spoke boldly, reasoning and persuading them about the kingdom of God, but when some became stubborn (prideful) and continued in unbelief, speaking evil of the Way before the congregation, he withdrew from them (Acts 19:8-9).

Certain Jews did not like Jesus' message so they hardened their hearts so much that they spoke evil against what Jesus was saying.

When people tell a person something they do not want to hear, because it is going to rob them from their position of importance, authority and power or cost them financially or cause them loss in any way they not only harden their hearts against them, but also speak against them doing everything they can to demean and degrade that person. The greater the pride the stronger this resistance will be.

- But exhort one another every day, as long as it is called "today," that none of you may be hardened by the deceitfulness of sin (Heb. 3:13).

This verse shines a spotlight on the truth that sin can harden our hearts, a good example of this would be a man or woman who believe they are in love with a married man or woman and are therefore willing to have an affair with them.

The deceitfulness of sin in this context is the emotional endearment to another man's wife or another woman's husband this emotional feeling deceives the man or woman into thinking it is OK to have a sexual affair with them.

It is certain that in our world of imperfection and sin there will be men or women that we will feel an emotional endearment to a married man or woman that goes

beyond the friendship of an acquaintance, but this is no excuse to violate another man's or woman's marriage vows.

- Jesus' apostles began discussing with one another the fact that they had no bread and Jesus, aware of this, said to them, "Why are you discussing the fact that you have no bread? Do you not yet perceive or understand? Are your hearts hardened? Having eyes do you not see, and having ears do you not hear? And do you not remember? (Mark 8:16-18).

These apostles had seen Jesus feed the five thousand and the four thousand with a handful of bread and fish, but they did not consider the miracles and what they meant so they did not perceive that they had the Son of God with all the power of God sitting in the boat with them (Mark 8:19-21). Hardened in this context carries the idea of being spiritually blind and spiritually ignorant.

For further information see the title: -

- The Story of the Potter and the Clay.
- In Various Topics (ON WEBSITE MENU).

End.