

BLOWN AWAY

Standing In Awe of God

Part 1: Let God Be God

THE PROMISE

Salvation is based on...

1. God's _____, not my _____. (Rom. 9:1-7)
Paul's example: Israel
"For not all who are descended from Israel are Israel." v. 6 (See Rom. 2:28)

2. God's _____, not my _____. (vs. 8-9)
Paul's example: Abraham and Isaac
"It's not the natural children who are God's offspring, but the children of the promise" v. 8

3. God's _____, not my _____. (vs. 10-13)
Paul's example: Jacob and Esau
"Rebecca gave birth to twins. But before they were born, before they had done anything good or bad, she was told, 'the older will serve the younger.' This proves God chooses according to His own plan, not according to our good or bad works." v. 11, 12 NLT

4. God's _____, not my _____. (vs. 14-18)
Paul's example: Moses and Pharaoh
"God says to Moses, 'I will have mercy on whom I will have mercy and I will have compassion on whom I will have compassion.' It does not therefore depend on man's desire or effort but on God's mercy." v. 15, 16

THE PROBLEM

This sounds like I have no _____! (vs. 19)
"One of you will say to me, 'Then why does God still blame us?'"

THE PERSPECTIVE

1. My knowledge is _____ (vs. 20-24)
Paul's example: Potter and clay
"Do you for one moment suppose any of us knows enough to call God into question? Clay doesn't talk back to the fingers that made it..." v. 20, 21 TM

2. Let _____ (vs. 24-29)
See Isaiah 55:8-9

3. I'm still _____ for my choice (vs.30-33)
See Rom. 10:11-13

THE RESULT

Believing accurately about God's sovereignty...

- Provides _____
- Prevents _____
- Produces _____

Daily Meditations

Here's a chance to "take it home": Spend a few minutes every day reading Scripture, praying, and answering thought provoking questions about this weekend's topic!

This week's memory verse: *"It does not, therefore, depend on man's desire or effort, but on God's mercy." Rom. 9:16*

Monday

Look back over your notes from this past weekend. What do you believe about the interaction between God's sovereignty-- His total authority-- and your own responsibility?

It's possible to have three responses to both of these biblical truths:

1. I can go to one extreme, emphasizing God's sovereignty to the point I don't even share Christ, thinking, "if they're God's elect, they'll be saved whether I talk to them or not!" Theologians call this "hyper-Calvinism".
2. I can go to the other extreme, emphasizing my free will and responsibility to the point I forget God is always the initiator, and even promises to finish His work in me! When I forget this, I can get discouraged. Theologians call this "Pelagianism" or "Semi-Pelagianism".

3. I can hold these two truths – God’s sovereignty and man’s responsibility – in biblical tension, believing they are both taught in the pages of Scripture.

Jesus said of false prophets, “By their fruits you shall know them.” It seems that the first two options produce bad fruit-- discouragement, pride, legalism, disobedience.

Thank God that He chose you! Ask Him to help you hold the twin truths of your responsibility and His sovereignty in biblical tension. Praise Him for being higher than your thoughts!

Tuesday

Read Psalm 115:1-13. How does this Psalm emphasize both God’s sovereignty and our responsibility to respond to Him?

Sometime there can be confusion over what “sovereignty of God” means.

Sovereignty means:

- God is not dependent on me
- God is not accountable to me
- God is not defined by me
- God does whatever He pleases

Sovereignty does *not* mean:

- I am God’s robot
- I automatically do God’s perfect will
- I do whatever God pleases all the time
- I am not responsible for my actions

Read Matt. 6:10. We are to pray that God’s will be done “on earth as it is in heaven”. What does this suggest to you about the interaction between God’s will and our responsibility?

Does your brain hurt yet?! Take a peek at Romans 11:33-36. Do you relate? *Ask the Lord to be Lord of your life in every area! Praise Him for His surpassing greatness!*

Wednesday

Read the following verses-- just a sample of the Scriptures on this topic:

Verses about God’s sovereignty

Romans 9:15, 16

Ephesians 1:4-5

John 15:16

Romans 11:7

Verses about our free will

Romans 10:9-13

Deuteronomy 30:19

Joshua 24:15

Matthew 23:37

You’ll notice there are many Scriptures that teach both God’s election and our free will-- in the same passage! For example, look at Acts 2:38-39 and 1 John 4:19.

After your study this week, how do you reconcile these two biblical truths?

How have you seen God’s election and your free response interplay in your own life?

Thank God today for His loving grace! Ask Him to help you remember that salvation is by grace alone!

Thursday

Re-read the passage with which Paul ends this three chapter section: Romans 11:33-36. How is this a natural response to the subject of God’s sovereignty and man’s responsibility?

Can you relate to Paul’s emotion here?

Today, make this verse into your prayer to God. Thank him for His bigness!

Friday

Today, read the entire 10th chapter of Romans. Write down some of your questions and observations in preparation for this weekend’s message on this chapter.

Today thank God again for the fact that He is higher than our thoughts! Spend some time being “blown away” by Him!

Saturday

Finish up any devotions you may have missed this week, and memorize that verse on the top of the previous page! *Please pray for the weekend services!*