

February 9, 2025

Sovereignty of God Romans 9:1-18 Pastor Kirk Gambrell

Vol. 15 Num. 6

Using This Study

❶ EXAMINE His Word

What does God SAY? Open your time with prayer. The words God uses to communicate matters, so go back and pay close attention to the details that are emphasized or repeated in the passage.

❷ EXPLORE His Word

What does God MEAN? Asking questions of the text helps surface how the details relate to the message God wants to communicate.

❸ EMBRACE His Word

Why does it MATTER to me? Embrace God by responding to what you discover in His word in faith and obedience.



**SO THEN, IT DOES NOT
DEPEND ON MAN'S DESIRE
OR EFFORT, BUT ON GOD'S
MERCY.**

- ROMANS 9:16



This week we will start Chapter 9 of Romans. This is a section of scripture that many struggle to understand. It tells us about God's total sovereignty over all people and how He has created all for His purpose. Join us this week as we talk about God's sovereignty and how it interacts with missions, evangelism and our free will.

Solicitude for Israel

9 I am telling the truth in Christ, I am not lying, my conscience testifies with me in the Holy Spirit, 2 that I have great sorrow and unceasing grief in my heart. 3 For I could wish that I myself were accursed, *separated* from Christ for the sake of my brethren, my kinsmen according to the flesh, 4 who are Israelites, to whom belongs the adoption as sons, and the glory and the covenants and the giving of the Law and the *temple* service and the promises, 5 whose are the fathers, and from whom is the Christ according to the flesh, who is over all, God blessed forever. Amen.

6 But *it is* not as though the word of God has failed. For they are not all Israel who are *descended* from Israel; 7 nor are they all children because they are Abraham's descendants, but: "through Isaac your descendants will be named." 8 That is, it is not the children of the flesh who are children of God, but the children of the promise are regarded as descendants. 9 For this is the word of promise: "At this time I will come, and Sarah shall have a son." 10 And not only this, but there was Rebekah also, when she had conceived *twins* by one man, our father Isaac; 11 for though *the twins* were not yet born and had not done anything good or bad, so that God's purpose according to *His* choice would stand, not because of works but because of Him who calls, 12 it was said to her, "The older will serve the younger." 13 Just as it is written, "Jacob I loved, but Esau I hated."

14 What shall we say then? There is no injustice with God, is there? May it never be! 15 For He says to Moses, "I will have mercy on whom I have mercy, and I will have compassion on whom I have compassion." 16 So then it *does not depend* on the man who wills or the man who runs, but on God who has mercy. 17 For the Scripture says to Pharaoh, "For this very purpose I raised you up, to demonstrate My power in you, and that My name might be proclaimed throughout the whole earth." 18 So then He has mercy on whom He desires, and He hardens whom He desires.

o EXAMINE His Word (Observation) (For personal preparation)

What does God SAY? Prayerfully note significant details from this passage.

Make 10 of your own observations from this passage. Avoid jumping to make interpretive decisions or drawing applications. Save those for the sections that follow. At this point just observe this passage and what it says. Look for things that are emphasized, repeated, and what stands out to you. Look at the verbs, what actions are in the text? Who is involved in the text? There is no right or wrong answer, just list 10 things you see in the text.

1.

2.

3.

4.

5.

6.

7.

8.

9.

10.

🕒 **Explore His Word (Interpretation)** (For Community group discussion)

What does God MEAN?

1. In verse 3 why does Paul suggest being separated from Christ for the sake of his kinsmen?
2. Who does God adopt as His children? Consider the earlier parts of Romans.
3. Who are the children of promise compared to the children of flesh in verse 8?
4. What is Paul's point in bringing up God's choice of Jacob over Esau?
5. Is it right for God to choose Jacob over Esau?
6. Do we have any impact on whether or not God shows mercy to us? explain
7. What was Pharaoh's purpose in life?

③ **EMBRACE His Word (Application)** (For Community Group discussion)

Why does this MATTER to me?

8. How does God's sovereignty impact your personal decision to follow Him?

9. How does God's sovereignty impact our view of missions and evangelism?

10. What do you think Paul's main idea is in this passage and how does it best apply to your life?

Summarize your thoughts on the passage

Write about what God wants you to KNOW, to FEEL, and to DO...

Sermon Notes