

Life Transformed: The Power of the Gospel

Romans 9: God chooses



Overview of the message:

Chris introduced the context of Romans, and of this section in particular. Since Jewish people were mostly rejecting the message of Jesus, it appeared that God's promises through Abraham to the Jewish nation had failed. Speaking with a broken heart from sadness over this situation, Paul shows that God had not failed on his promises.

In Romans 9, Paul explains that throughout Israel's history, it was never **all** of Abraham's descendants who were the true Israel. Rather, at every stage God **chose** some, not all, to inherit the promises. Chris showed that this message of God's choice comes regularly through the Old and New Testaments. It is applied not just to the nation of Israel but to all who believe.

Chris examined two objections to this teaching. The first is that, by choosing some, God appears to be unjust. The second is that if God chooses, how can he fault us for our sins? Following Paul's arguments, Chris showed that it is only by mercy that anyone is saved, and that we human beings are in no position to criticise God's dealings from our limited and self-centred understanding.

Chris pointed out that God's choice does not mean we become passive. On the contrary, it encourages us to pray, work hard and share the gospel, knowing that he will work through that to save the people he has chosen.

Questions

1. Paul puts two objections to the idea that God chooses some people.
 - It is not fair to choose some. (v14)
 - If God chooses some, then he can't really blame us for our sins, since he is the one in control. (v19)

What would be your answers to these objections?

2. How does understanding God's choice of us strengthen our faith?
3. How does God understanding God's choice help us to pray and share the gospel.

Praying together

In the light of this teaching, give time to praying for the people you live or work with who don't know Jesus yet. Make plans to share the gospel with them.