



9:1 I am speaking the truth in Christ—I am not lying; my conscience bears me witness in the Holy Spirit— 2 that I have great sorrow and unceasing anguish in my heart. 3 For I could wish that I myself were accursed and cut off from Christ for the sake of my brothers, my kinsmen according to the flesh. 4 They are Israelites, and to them belong the adoption, the glory, the covenants, the giving of the law, the worship, and the promises. 5 To them belong the patriarchs, and from their race, according to the flesh, is the Christ who is God over all, blessed forever. Amen. 6 But it is not as though the word of God has failed. For not all who are descended from Israel belong to Israel, 7 and not all are children of Abraham because they are his offspring, but “Through Isaac shall your offspring be named.” 8 This means that it is not the children of the flesh who are the children of God, but the children of the promise are counted as offspring. 9 For this is what the promise said: “About this time next year I will return, and Sarah shall have a son.” 10 And not only so, but also when Rebekah had conceived children by one man, our forefather Isaac, 11 though they 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 him who calls— 12 she was told, “The older will serve the younger.” 13 As it is written, “Jacob I loved, but Esau I hated.” 14 What shall we say then? Is there injustice on God’s part? By no means! 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 depends not on human will or exertion, but on God, who has mercy. 17 For 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.” 18 So then he has mercy on whomever he wills, and he hardens whomever he wills. (ESV)

1. Know that the Success of Our Evangelism...

_____ (vv.1-3)

** But that does NOT mean...*

2. Know that the Success of Our Evangelism...

_____ (vv.4-16)

** But that does NOT mean...*

3. Know that the Success of Our Evangelism...

_____ (vv.6-18)

** But that does NOT mean...*

Application Questions

These questions are provided for your further study and application of today's sermon. Thoughtfully writing out the answers to these questions will help to drive home the point of today's study. It is also helpful when you are able to discuss your answers with others.

1. Why do you think truths like the ones presented in this week's sermon are harder for the modern church to embrace than they were for the church of 200 or 300 years ago?
2. What is the danger in simply avoiding all the difficult doctrines found in the Bible?
3. Read **Romans 11:33-36**. These verses conclude the section of Scripture we began to study in this week's sermon. How can a "small view of God" or a "people-centered view of Christianity" keep Christians from affirming God's sovereign purpose and plan in saving individuals?
4. How would you respond to a Christian who says he does not engage in personal evangelism "because God will save who he wants to save without my help!"?
5. Read **John 10:24-28**. How does this passage give us hope and expectancy in our evangelism?
6. For most Christians the tension between the biblical concepts of divine sovereignty and human responsibility needs to be explored on a deeper level. If this is true for you, please commit to reading on the subject. From the resources at the bottom of the page, those new to this tension might want to start with Wilson, Packer, Adams or Clotfelter. What book will you commit to read?

The Compass "Bible Reading" Schedule for this Week:

Go to ESV.org (Reading Plans: Through the Bible) for schedule prompts.

July 11th

Ps.4-6 & Ac.16:16-40

July 12th

Ps.7-9 & Ac.17:1-15

July 13th

Ps.10-12 & Ac.17:16-34

July 14th

Ps.13-16 & Ac.18

July 15th

Ps.17-18 & Ac.19:1-20

July 16th

Ps.19-21 & Ac.19:21-41

July 17th

Ps.22-24 & Ac.20:1-16

July 18th

Ps.25-27 & Ac.20:17-38

For sermons on MP3 go to FPR.info. The following are other available sermons related to today's subject matter.

CD # 0860 – **Studying God: The Decrees & Sovereignty of God**

CD # 0859 – **Studying God: The Theodicy of God**

CD # 0506 – **Right On Schedule: Affirming God's Plan Amid the Unexpected**

CD # 0904 – **Making Sense of the Bad in the Good Book**

CD # 0817—0821 – **Gospel Crazy** (a 5-part series on evangelism from Romans 1:1-17)

Here are some books which may assist you in a deeper study of the truths presented in today's sermon. While Pastor Mike cannot endorse every concept presented in each book, he does believe these resources will be helpful in profitably thinking through today's topic.

Adams, Jay. **The Grand Demonstration: A Biblical Study of the So-Called Problem of Evil**. Timeless Texts, 1999.

Carson, D. A. **Divine Sovereignty & Human Responsibility: Biblical Perspectives in Tension**. Wipf & Stock, 1994.

_____. **The Difficult Doctrine of the Love of God**. Crossway Books, 1999.

Clotfelter, David. **Sinners in the Hands of a Good God: Reconciling Divine Judgment & Mercy**. Moody Press, 2004.

Packer, J. I. **Evangelism and the Sovereignty of God**. InterVarsity Press, 1991.

Pink, A. W. **The Sovereignty of God**. Reprint. Banner of Truth, 2009.

Piper, John. **The Justification of God: An Exegetical & Theological Study of Romans 9:1-23**. Baker, 1993.

Schreiner, Thomas & Bruce Ware. **Still Sovereign: Perspectives on Election, Foreknowledge & Grace**. Baker, 2000.

Sproul, R. C. **Almighty Over All: Understanding the Sovereignty of God**. Baker Books, 1999.

_____. **Willing to Believe: The Controversy over Free Will**. Baker Books, 1997.

Tiessen, Terrance. **Providence & Prayer: How Does God Work in the World?** InterVarsity, 2000.

White, James R. **The Potter's Freedom: A Rebuttal of Chosen But Free**. Calvary Press, 2000.

Wilson, Douglas. **Easy Chairs, Hard Words: Conversations on the Liberty of God**. Canon Press, 1991.

Wright, R. K. McGregor. **No Place for Sovereignty: What's Wrong with Freewill Theism**. InterVarsity Press, 1996.