

ROOMMANS

SEEING WHAT IS RIGHT • THROUGH GOD'S EYES

What we think about ourselves is critical

- “...the way you think about yourself turns into your reality. If you draw inaccurate conclusions about who you are and what you’re capable of doing, you’ll limit your potential.”
- “Your thoughts are a catalyst for self-perpetuating cycles. What you think directly influences how you feel and how you behave. So if you think you’re a failure, you’ll feel like a failure. Then, you’ll act like a failure, which reinforces your belief that you *must be* a failure.”
- “Once you draw a conclusion about yourself, you’re likely to do two things; look for evidence that reinforces your belief and discount anything that runs contrary to your belief.”



What we think about God is even more critical!



What we think about God is even more critical!

- Isn't God harsh?
- Isn't He cold and calculating choosing to **coldly abandon most to Hell** while rescuing only a few trophies for His selfish glory?
- Am I just a puppet – **it really doesn't matter what do** – God gets what He wants?
- **If I fail He will just cast me aside** like He did with Israel – I mean – look at them!



What we think about God is even more critical!

**If that is my view of God and my options –
how will that impact my life and choices?**



Quick Review

Romans Series: “Seeing what is Right Through God’s eyes”

- ❖ Module 1 – “Condemned” *God’s Righteous Judgement Ch. 1-3*
- ❖ Module 2 – “Credited” *Righteousness through Faith Ch. 3:21- 5:21*
- ❖ Module 3 – “Resurrected” *Living Righteously through Christ 6:1-8:39*
- ❖ Module 4 – “Secured” *God Righteously Determines 9:1-11:36*



Quick Thoughts

1. If you were away listen to Gary Goodkey's message from last week! Well done! **Laid out the context.**
2. Two classic doctrines that get polarized and some take to extremes
 - A. Arminianism - Man chooses and can resist God's grace. I can choose to fall away from God
 - B. Calvinism – God chooses- I cannot resist Him. God chooses some to heaven , some to hell.
3. Handle systematic theology with care
 - A. The Holy Spirit did not write scripture in systematic form – but in narrative form
 - B. Well intended people systematise truth but are still biased and fall short
 - C. Systematic theology is always written in a historical setting – and is usually a response to something





**My Free
choice**

**God's
sovereign
choice
(election)**



The Whole Point – We are secure

Big picture- Context – the Question -

37 No, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him who loved us. 38 For I am convinced that neither death nor life, neither angels nor demons, neither the present nor the future, nor any powers, 39 neither height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God that is in Christ Jesus our Lord.

Romans 8:37–39 (NIV84)

But that doesn't apply to me – “God has rejected Israel because of their sin- so He will reject me because I am unworthy and fail”

Thus salvation is based on my works, choices and faithfulness!

Paul is countering this. He is teaching one ‘rail of the train track’ – God’s sovereign choosing – not my choice of faith.





WALLENSTEIN
BIBLE
CHAPEL

“Thorny Questions”

Romans 9:14-24

Pew Bible pg. 801

Thorny Questions

Sounds like Pharaoh had no choice. God made him sin and God prepared him for destruction.

- 1. Does God make us sin so we will achieve His purposes?**
- 2. Does God elect people for hell and people for heaven?**
- 3. Does free will really exist?**
- 4. The Bible says God desires that all will be saved. Doesn't the doctrine of election contradict that?**

Next week Chapter 10

- 1. Why evangelize if God determines it all?**



Thorny Questions

Does God make us sin so we will achieve His purposes v 15-18?



Thorny Questions

Does God make us sin so we will achieve His purposes?

¹⁴ “For this time I will send all My plagues on you and your servants and your people, so that you may know that there is no one like Me in all the earth. ¹⁵ “For *if by* now I had put forth My hand and struck you and your people with pestilence, you would then have been cut off from the earth. ¹⁶ “**But, indeed, for this reason I have allowed you to remain, in order to show you My power and in order to proclaim My name through all the earth.** ¹⁷ “Still you exalt yourself against My people by not letting them go. Exodus 9:14–17 (NASB95)

- No, but God does extend or withhold mercy till it suits His purposes. In this case – to be known by the whole world!



Thorny Questions

Is there double predestination – some to hell some to heaven v 22-23?



Thorny Questions

Is there double predestination- some to hell some to heaven?

Romans 9:22–23 (NIV84)

²² What if God, choosing to show his wrath and make his power known, bore with great patience the objects of his wrath—**prepared for destruction?**

²³ What if he did this to make the riches of his glory known to the objects of his mercy, **whom he prepared in advance for glory—**



Thorny Questions

Is there double predestination- some to hell some to heaven?

Romans 9:22–23 (AV)

²² *What* if God, willing to shew *his* wrath, and to make his power known, endured with much longsuffering the vessels of wrath **fitted to destruction**:

²³ And that he might make known the riches of his glory on the vessels of mercy, which **he had afore prepared unto glory**,

No: English obscures Paul subtle nuance – two different words



Thorny Questions

Is there double predestination- some to hell some to heaven?

Romans 9:22–23 (my translation)

²² What if God, choosing to show his wrath and make his power known, bore with great patience the objects of his wrath — ripened and made completely ready for destruction?

²³ What if he did this to make the riches of his glory known to the objects of his mercy, whom he prepared in advance for glory—

No: English obscures Paul subtle nuance- two different words



Thorny Questions

Is there double predestination- some to hell some to heaven?

Romans 9:22–23 (my translation)

²² What if God, choosing to show his wrath and make his power known, bore with great patience the objects of his wrath— who made themselves ripened and completely ready for destruction?

²³ What if he did this to make the riches of his glory known to the objects of his mercy, whom he prepared in advance for glory—

No: v 22 – can be reflexive- they did it to themselves



Thorny Questions

Is there double predestination- some to hell some to heaven?

Romans 9:22–23 (my translation)

²² What if God, choosing to show his wrath and make his power known, bore with great patience the objects of his wrath— who made themselves ripened and completely ready for destruction?

²³ What if he did this to make the riches of his glory known to the objects of his mercy, whom he prepared in advance for glory—

No: v 22 & 23 – a big difference – in v 23 God prepared us for glory. It does not say He prepared them for destruction v 22



Thorny Questions

Do we have free will?



Thorny Questions

Do we have free will?

1. God knew Pharaoh's choices

Exodus 3:19 (NIV84)

¹⁹ But I know that the king of Egypt will not let you go unless a mighty hand compels him.

Exodus 6:1 (NIV84)

¹ Then the LORD said to Moses, “Now you will see what I will do to Pharaoh: Because of my mighty hand he will let them go; because of my mighty hand he will drive them out of his country.”



Thorny Questions

Do we have free will?

2. God predicted what He (God) would do

Exodus 4:21 (NIV84)

²¹ The LORD said to Moses, “When you return to Egypt, see that you perform before Pharaoh all the wonders I have given you the power to do. But I will harden his heart so that he will not let the people go.

Exodus 7:3–4 (NIV84)

³ But I will harden Pharaoh’s heart, and though I multiply my miraculous signs and wonders in Egypt, ⁴ he will not listen to you...



Thorny Questions

Do we have free will?

3. Pharaoh acted first – 7 x – He hardened against God first

Exodus 7:13 –14 (NIV84)

¹³ Yet Pharaoh's heart became hard and he would not listen to them, just as the LORD had said. ¹⁴ Then the LORD said to Moses, "Pharaoh's heart is unyielding; he refuses to let the people go.

Exodus 7:22 (NIV84)

²² But the Egyptian magicians did the same things by their secret arts, and Pharaoh's heart became hard; he would not listen to Moses and Aaron, just as the LORD had said.



Thorny Questions

Do we have free will?

3. Pharaoh acted first - 7 x – He hardened against God first

Exodus 8:15 (NIV84)

¹⁵ But when Pharaoh saw that there was relief, he hardened his heart and would not listen to Moses and Aaron, just as the LORD had said.

Exodus 8:19 (NIV84)

¹⁹ The magicians said to Pharaoh, “This is the finger of God.” But Pharaoh’s heart was hard and he would not listen, just as the LORD had said.



Thorny Questions

Do we have free will?

3. Pharaoh acted first - 7 x – He hardened against God first

Exodus 8:32 (NIV84)

³² But this time also Pharaoh hardened his heart and would not let the people go.

Exodus 9:7 (NIV84)

⁷ Pharaoh sent men to investigate and found that not even one of the animals of the Israelites had died. Yet his heart was unyielding and he would not let the people go.



Thorny Questions

Do we have free will?

4. Then God acted as He said He would Ex. 9:12; 10:1, 20, 27; 11:10; 14:4, 8

Exodus 9:12 (NIV84)

¹² But the LORD hardened Pharaoh's heart and he would not listen to Moses and Aaron, just as the LORD had said to Moses.



Thorny Questions

The Bible says God desires that all will be saved. Doesn't the doctrine of election contradict that?



Thorny Questions

The Bible says God desires that all will be saved. Doesn't the doctrine of election contradict that?

The whole point is:

1. Mercy to Jews and Gentiles:

Romans 9:23–24 (NIV84)

23 What if he did this to make the riches of his glory known to the objects of his mercy, whom he prepared in advance for glory— 24 even us, whom he also called, not only from the Jews but also from the Gentiles?



Thorny Questions

The Bible says God desires that all will be saved. Doesn't the doctrine of election contradict that?

The whole point is:

2. We must come to God by faith in Christ (the Messiah – the stumbling block)

Romans 9:32–33 (ESV)

32 Why? Because they did not pursue it by **faith**, but as if it were based on **works**. They have stumbled over the stumbling stone, 33 as it is written, “Behold, I am laying in Zion a stone of stumbling, and a rock of offense; and whoever believes in him (**Christ**) will not be put to shame.”



What if this is my view of God?

9:1-5 God richly blesses His people!

9:6-13 God's promises do not fail. We are His people based on His promises to us not based on our actions or birthright.

9:14-18 God justly and freely chooses to show mercy to us.

9:19-29 God sovereignly works through each persons choices to fulfill His will and make His name known by preparing us for salvation.

9:30-33 Everything hinges on faith – believing and trusting Christ (the stumbling block)





**My Free
choice**

Faith

**God's
sovereign
choice
(election)**

