**Romans: Chapter 9**

I. Romans 9 – Challenging, Misunderstood, Misused?

II. Difficult Concepts

* v. 8 - That is, those who *are* the children of the flesh, these *are* not the children of God; but the children of the promise are counted as the seed.
* v.11-13 …the children not yet being born, nor having done good or evil…Jacob I have loved, but Esau have I hated.
* v.15-16 – I will have mercy on whomever I will have mercy…
* v.17 …for this very purpose I raised you up…
* v.18 …Therefore He has mercy on whom He wills, and whom He wills He hardens.
* v.19-20 …O man, who are you to reply against God…
* v.21 …does not the potter have the power over the clay…

III. Theological Discussion

Assertion: God is absolutely sovereign (controlling all things including salvation).

Criticism: Then men are robots! Then God is unjust! (holding “robots” accountable)

Response: In Romans 9 Regarding:

1. God’s choosing the “children of promise” and rejecting the children of the flesh.” v7-9
2. God’s choosing of Jacob and rejecting of Esau. v10-13
3. God’s choosing of Moses and Rejecting of Pharoh. v14-18

In each of these situations, God’s choosing or rejecting correlates with man’s faith or rebellion.

1. Acts 2:37,41 vs. John 1:11, 19:34
2. Gen. 28:20-21 vs. Gen. 25:29-34
3. Heb. 11:23-28 vs. Ex. 5:2, 8:15

Each of these three situations are demonstrations of what is called the Theological Doctrine of Compatibilism

IV. Compatibilism – The teaching that absolute divine sovereignty is compatible with mankind’s ability to

act freely in accord with their own nature and desires withing the decree of God.

Further Examples:

Gen. 20:3-6 God and Abimelech

Gen. 50:20 God and Josephs brothers

2 Sam. 24:1 I Chron. 21:1, 2 Sam. 24:10 God, Satan, David

Job 1:11-17 God, Satan, Sabeans/Chaldeans

Is. 10:5-13 God and the King of Assyria

Acts 2:22-24 God and the men of Israel

Phil. 2:12-13 God and believers

V. Summary

The Bible teaches:

* God exercises his sovereign control over all creation.
* All mankind acts according to their own nature and desires.
* All mankind acts within the confines of God’s decree.
* All mankind is responsible for their violations of God’s revealed will