

God's Sovereign Choice

Romans: The Power of the Gospel

Passage: Romans 9:1-29
Rev. Bruce Persons | September 6, 2026

I. The Weeping (vv. 1-5)

II. The Thesis (vv. 6-13)

III. The Objection (vv. 14-23)

IV. The Mercy (vv. 24-29)

MISSIONAL COMMUNITY QUESTIONS

1. When you heard we were doing Romans 9, what was your first honest reaction?
2. We finished chapter 8 last Sunday with "nothing can separate you from the love of Christ." Now the first thing Paul says is that he wishes he could be cut off. Why do you think Paul put those two sentences next to each other?
3. Look at the list in verses 4–5. The first item is **adoption** — the same word Paul used in 8:15 and 8:23 about you. What does it do to the argument that Paul's people already had all eight of these things?
4. Verse 6 is the thesis of the whole chapter. Verses 7–13 give two examples. What do Isaac/Ishmael and Jacob/Esau have in common as illustrations?
5. "Who are you, O man, to answer back to God?" — the sermon said this is not God telling us to shut up, because Paul lets the question get asked twice. Where is the line between an honest question and answering back? Job asked. Habakkuk asked. Jesus asked in the garden.
6. **Count them in the text: mercy appears five times in this chapter; wrath appears twice.** Does that change what you thought this chapter was about?

PERSONAL REFLECTION QUESTIONS

1. **The lifeboat.** The sermon said nobody in a lifeboat asks why they got pulled in; they look back at the water. And Paul, in verse 3, offers to get back out. **Who is in your water?** Name one person — you do not have to say the name out loud.
2. **For the person you just named:** Paul's response to not being able to save them was unceasing anguish and prayer, not argument and not resignation. Which of those four have you been doing?
3. The sermon ended with this: *if you are trying to work out whether you are chosen, you are asking a question you cannot answer from the inside — so ask a different one. Do you want him?* Sit with that for a second. Does that help?

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