

**The Main Point:** Some people from a human point of view have a right to ask God why he made them the way he did. But God has the right to do whatever he pleases and not be criticized by us. However, the bottom line in life – no matter what we were given at birth — is what we do with our life. Some people choose to love God, to seek His grace in Jesus and become his friend and some people choose to play god themselves to their dying breath.

### Overview

**1-V1-3** Paul's conversion created a great concern for the unsaved. A major group of the unsaved were the Jews who rejected Christ. Here he is speaking about the bitter \_\_\_\_\_ and unending \_\_\_\_\_ he feels about the Jews who have rejected Christ, their messiah. He would be willing to be \_\_\_\_\_ off from Christ himself if that would \_\_\_\_\_ them.

**2-V4** He goes on to talk about how Jews are special. (1) They were \_\_\_\_\_ to be God's special children. (2) God revealed his \_\_\_\_\_ to them. (3) He made \_\_\_\_\_ with them. (4) He gave his \_\_\_\_\_ to them. (5) They have the privilege of \_\_\_\_\_ him. (6) They received his wonderful \_\_\_\_\_. (7) Their ancestors were great people of \_\_\_\_\_. (8) Christ himself was a Jew as far as his \_\_\_\_\_ nature is concerned.

**3-V5** Christ is \_\_\_\_\_ who rules over everything and is worthy of eternal praise. Amen

**4-V6** The fact that so many born of Jewish blood chose not to believe in Christ does not mean God \_\_\_\_\_. In the same family some accept and others reject God.

**5-V7-9** In this scripture it appears that God plays favorites. In other places it says "God doesn't show partiality. In every nation he accepts those who fear him and do what is right." (Acts 11:34) However, God makes promises. He made a promise to Abraham that his son \_\_\_\_\_, born of his lawful wife Sarah, would be the heir rather than the older son Ishmael born of Hagar, the slave woman.

**6-V10-13** Isaac had twin sons. Of the sons God said, "I loved \_\_\_\_\_, but I rejected \_\_\_\_\_." And Esau was the older one. God decided this before they were born.

We could say according to Romans 8:29 that "God FOREKNEW which one would value Him and the things God values and, therefore, chose Jacob. But here it says that God chooses according to his own \_\_\_\_\_, not according to our good or bad \_\_\_\_\_.

**7-V14-15** So can we charge God with being \_\_\_\_\_? No! God says, "I will show \_\_\_\_\_ to anyone I choose and I will show compassion to anyone I \_\_\_\_\_.

He is God after all and does not have to work according to what we think we know of Him.

**8-V17-18** Another example of God's SOVEREIGNTY was Pharaoh, king of Egypt in the time of Moses and the Exodus. God wanted to show 10 great destructive miracles crushing the gods Egypt worshiped. So God choose to make Pharaoh \_\_\_\_\_ to listen.

**9-V19** "Well then, you might say, "Why does God \_\_\_\_\_ people for not listening? Haven't they simply done what he made them do?" Faith changes destiny.

**10-V20-21** All men are certainly not created equal in their endowments and environment. So it seem right that a person might say, "\_\_\_\_\_ have YOU \_\_\_\_\_ ME like this?"

**11-V21** Paul compares God to a \_\_\_\_\_ who fashions people like jars – some for \_\_\_\_\_, some for \_\_\_\_\_. So God can exercise his \_\_\_\_\_ on some and he can be \_\_\_\_\_ with others who are only fit for judgment. He can pour out the riches of his glory on those he has chosen as objects of his \_\_\_\_\_. (This includes \_\_\_\_\_ from various backgrounds.)

**12-V25-26** So those who were \_\_\_\_\_ God's people or not loved are called \_\_\_\_\_.

**13-V27-29** In the end only \_\_\_\_\_ number will be saved---though "many are called."

**14-V32** Answer is given now as to why God chooses some and not others. He chooses those who come to him \_\_\_\_\_ and rejects those who try to make themselves \_\_\_\_\_.

A great ROCK (God the Son bearing sins on the cross) is placed before the world of men and women. Those who think they are good \_\_\_\_\_ over the rock. They are offended. Those who know how hopeless they are come to Jesus and \_\_\_\_\_ in Him.

### Word Study

• CHOOSES • POTTER • CUT OFF • JACOB/ ESAU • TRUE JEW

**1. V3** \_\_\_\_\_ Paul had the heart of Christ in him to an unusual degree. He was willing to spend eternity in hell if that would have saved the Jews. This is the risk that Christ took. He was tempted in every way like we were. If He had sinned like Adam did, it seems that in some way He would be delivered into the hands of the devil. Moses made a similar offer to save Israel when they had made the golden calf. *"But now please forgive their sin--and if not, then blot me out of the record You are keeping."* Exodus 32:32

**2. V6** \_\_\_\_\_ *"A true Jew is one whose heart is right with God. And true circumcision (claiming righteousness by something external) is not a cutting of the body but a change of heart produced by God's Spirit. Whoever has that kind of change seeks praise from God, not from people."* Romans 2:29 The Holy Spirit speaking through Paul is explaining why most of those who were born Jews (whom God had promised (it seemed) to bring into the promised land of heaven) will be rejected. A true Jew has faith--that is trust in God-- yieldedness to God --an affection for God—an obedience to God based on trust in God and a desire to maintain their relationship with God. A true Jew knows he is not able to keep the law but needs God to save Him.

**3. V. 7-13** \_\_\_\_\_ The history of Israel shows that that most of those who were descendents of Abraham were rejected while a single person chooses right and he and his descendants remain true Jews. Abraham and Lot his nephew were the only ones who left pagan Babylon. Lots' wife looked back and perished. Ishmael was conceived in unbelief and was a "wild donkey of a man." Jacob was a tricky and dishonest man but he valued the things God valued such as the blessing and the birthright while his older brother by minutes, Esau, a hale fellow well-met, sold them for a bowl of soup. On the other hand, the scriptures record pagan and sinful women who became the grandmothers of Christ because of faith. Rahab, Ruth, Bathsheba. (Matthew 1)

**4. V15** \_\_\_\_\_ God has the right to choose on the basis of His values and standards who will receive the mercy that will save them or to reject those whom He foreknows will pridefully establish their own righteousness and be backed up by their cronies or who will make up their own religion and refuse to listen till their end on earth. *"For those whom He foreknew. He also predestined to be conformed to the image of His Son...And those whom He predestined he also called; and those whom He called He also justified, and those whom He justified He also glorified."* Romans 8:29-30

**5. V21** \_\_\_\_\_ God is the potter. We are like pots. Some people were formed with so much going for them and other people were made by God with a lack of endowments that consign them to far humbler lives. From the human point of view, it doesn't seem like God was fair when he handed out parents, looks, brains, athletic abilities, healthy genes, nationality, race, opportunities, the potential for status, power, privilege, wealth, dominance. What can we say that convinces us that God loves us equally?

(1) Everyone has an equal ability to choose Christ and be saved and become a beautiful soul. Mother Teresa was not a greatly gifted person but her life was something beautiful for God.

(2) Jesus said, "Many who are first will be last, and many who are last will be first." In the Kingdom of God—faith, goodness, generosity, being a servant, humility are more valued than wealth, fame, and power. Jesus was not important in the world's eyes. (3) God knows what it takes for each of us to be saved. The body and the kind of world we are born into are ideal for us to recognize our need for God, desire Christ-likeness and become God's friend.

**What does this Scripture say to you?**

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