

Irrevocable

Romans 11:28-32

28 Concerning the gospel they are enemies for your sake, but concerning the election they are beloved for the sake of the fathers. 29 For the gifts and the calling of God are irrevocable. 30 For as you were once disobedient to God, yet have now obtained mercy through their disobedience, 31 even so these also have now been disobedient, that through the mercy shown you they also may obtain mercy. 32 For God has committed them all to disobedience, that He might have mercy on all.

I. Hated or Beloved

A. Because of the gospel they are enemies for the sake of the Gentiles

1. The Jew rejected the Messiah and the way of salvation that Jesus brought to them.
2. But because they rejected the gospel it was extended to the Gentiles as was foretold in the Old Testament.
3. Therefore Israel became enemies of God as they rebelled against His plan and purpose in Jesus Christ.

B. Because of God's election they are Beloved for the sake of the fathers

1. The call her has to do with God's selection of Abraham as the father of the nation on whom God would set His affection.
2. Deuteronomy 7: 7 "The LORD did not set His love on you nor choose you because you were more in number than any other people, for you were the least of all peoples; 8 "but because the LORD loves you, and because He would keep the oath which He swore to your fathers, the LORD has brought you out with a mighty hand, and redeemed you from the house of bondage, from the hand of Pharaoh king of Egypt.

II. Gifts & Callings of God

A. A short list we have seen.

1. Romans 9:4-5 (NKJV) 4 who are Israelites, to whom pertain the adoption, the glory, the covenants, the giving of the law, the service of God, and the promises; 5 of whom are the fathers and from whom, according to the flesh, Christ came, who is over all, the eternally blessed God. Amen.

B. The Callings of God

1. Deuteronomy 10:15 (NKJV) 15 The LORD delighted only in your fathers, to love them; and He chose their descendants after them, you above all peoples, as it is this day.

2. The general proposition of the apostle, therefore, is, that the purposes of God are unchangeable; and, consequently, those whom God has chosen for any special benefit cannot fail to attain it. The persons whom he hath chosen to eternal life shall certainly be saved; and the people whom he chooses to be his peculiar people, as the Jews were chosen in Abraham, must for ever remain his people. The purpose once formed, and the promise once given, never can be changed. *Charles Hodge, Commentary on the Epistle to the Romans, (New York: A.C. Armstrong and Son, 1893), WORDsearch CROSS e-book, 591.*

C. But what if they do not carry through.

1. Romans 3:3 (NKJV) 3 For what if some did not believe? Will their unbelief make the faithfulness of God without effect?
2. Deuteronomy 4:25-31 (NKJV) 25 "When you beget children and grandchildren and have grown old in the land, and act corruptly and make a carved image in the form of anything, and do evil in the sight of the LORD your God to provoke Him to anger, 26 I call heaven and earth to witness against you this day, that you will soon utterly perish from the land which you cross over the Jordan to possess; you will not prolong your days in it, but will be utterly destroyed. 27 And the LORD will scatter you among the peoples, and you will be left few in number among the nations where the LORD will drive you. 28 And there you will serve gods, the work of men's hands, wood and stone, which neither see nor hear nor eat nor smell. 29 But from there you will seek the LORD your God, and you will find Him if you seek Him with all your heart and with all your soul. 30 When you are in distress, and all these things come upon you in the latter days, when you turn to the LORD your God and obey His voice 31 (for the LORD your God is a merciful God), He will not forsake you nor destroy you, nor forget the covenant of your fathers which He swore to them.

III. God does not Repent

- A. The adjective ἀμεταμελητα (“irrevocable”) is in the emphatic position at the beginning of this clause to emphasize God’s faithfulness (cf. 3:3). This rare word is only used again in 2 Cor 7:10, where it qualifies “repentance” and means “not to be regretted.” God does not “take back” what he gives, nor does he turn his back on a relationship he initiates. “God has not rejected his people whom he foreknew” *David G Peterson, Biblical Theology for Christian Proclamation – Commentary on Romans, (Nashville, Tennessee: Holman Reference, 2017), WORDsearch CROSS e-book, 428.*
- B. The Scriptures confirm this over and over again
 1. Numbers 23:19 (NKJV) 19 "God is not a man, that He should lie, Nor a

son of man, that He should repent. Has He said, and will He not do? Or has He spoken, and will He not make it good?

2. Hebrews 10:23 (NKJV) 23 Let us hold fast the confession of our hope without wavering, for He who promised is faithful.
3. Malachi 3:6 (NKJV) 6 "For I am the LORD, I do not change; Therefore you are not consumed, O sons of Jacob.
4. Ezekiel 24:14 (NKJV) 14 I, the LORD, have spoken it; It shall come to pass, and I will do it; I will not hold back, Nor will I spare, Nor will I relent; According to your ways And according to your deeds They will judge you," Says the Lord GOD.' "
5. 1 Samuel 15:29 (NKJV) 29 And also the Strength of Israel will not lie nor relent. For He is not a man, that He should relent."
6. Psalm 89:35-36 (NKJV) 35 Once I have sworn by My holiness; I will not lie to David: 36 His seed shall endure forever, And his throne as the sun before Me;
7. Titus 1:2 (NKJV) 2 in hope of eternal life which God, who cannot lie, promised before time began,
8. Hebrews 6:18 (NKJV) 18 that by two immutable things, in which it is impossible for God to lie, we might have strong consolation, who have fled for refuge to lay hold of the hope set before us.
9. James 1:17 (NKJV) 17 Every good gift and every perfect gift is from above, and comes down from the Father of lights, with whom there is no variation or shadow of turning.

C. The gifts of God are not to be recalled nor to be altered. The "calling of God" in this case means the sovereign act by which God, in the exercise of his free choice, called Abraham to be the father of a peculiar people; while "the gifts ... of God" here denote the articles of the covenant God made with Abraham, which constituted the real distinction between his and all other families of the earth. Both of these are irrevocable. *J.D. Douglas and Philip W. Comfort, ed., New Commentary on the Whole Bible – New Testament: Based on the Classic Commentary of Jamieson, Fausset, and Brown, (Wheaton, IL: Tyndale House Publishers, 1990), WORDsearch CROSS e-book, Under: "Chapter 11".*

IV. It is all about Mercy

- A. All are disobedient.
 1. All have sinned.
 2. There is not a just person on the earth that does good and does not sin.

- B. It is not us holding on to God that gets us there but God holding on to us.
1. Look at Abraham.
 - a. He was far from perfect.
 - b. He disobeyed God when God told him to stay in the land.
 - c. He lied about who Sarah was and put her in jeopardy.
 - d. So why would God choose him?
 2. Look at David.
 - a. He committed adultery and had a man killed to cover it up.
 - b. He gave occasion for the enemies of God to speak against God.
 - c. So why did God choose him?
 3. There were no perfect people to choose from.
 4. God extended mercy to those to whom He chose to extend mercy.
 - a. Romans 9:15 For He says to Moses, "I will have mercy on whomever I will have mercy, and I will have compassion on whomever I will have compassion."
 - b. Nehemiah 9:31 Nevertheless in Your great mercy You did not utterly consume them nor forsake them; For You are God, gracious and merciful.
- C. Therefore it is not to us but to God be the glory.
1. Psalm 115:1 Not unto us, O LORD, not unto us, But to Your name give glory, Because of Your mercy, Because of Your truth.