



## Discussion Questions • Abbotsford

### Title of Sermon: The Difficult Doctrine of Election - Part 1

Passage: Romans 9:1-18

#### Intro -

1. Do you think debates about theology are worthwhile?
  - a. Why or why not?
  - b. What topics are worth debating? Which are not?
2. When do debates about theology go too far?
  - a. When do they not go far enough?
3. In your opinion, what are some of the most difficult things that the Bible teaches?
  - a. Why are they hard to accept?
  - b. How do you handle it when you read passages that challenge your way of thinking about God (what do you do in response)?

#### Sermon Points -

1. The Passage
  - a. Read Romans 9:1-5.
    - i. Why do you think some people believe in Jesus and others don't?
  - b. Read Romans 9:6-9.
    - i. Why did God choose Isaac to receive his covenant blessings and didn't choose Ishmael?
  - c. Read Romans 9:10-13. Why does God choose Jacob and not Esau?
    - i. Does God really "hate" Esau?
    - ii. How do you explain this language (see Luke 14:25-26 for help)? What does it mean?
  - d. What gives rise to the question in Romans 9:14?
    - i. Why would someone object to Paul on the grounds that what he is saying is unfair or unjust?
    - ii. What is unjust about what he has just taught?
  - e. Why doesn't God destroy the nation of Israel after they worship the Golden Calf, but he destroys the nation of Egypt after Pharaoh fought with God? Don't both of them deserve judgment?



- f. When we think about what people deserve from God, do we tend to believe they deserve good things or bad things?
  - i. Is God unjust if he saves only some rebels, but lets others perish? Why or why not?

## 2. The Point

- a. What do you make of a passage like Matthew 11:25-30? What do you think Jesus is teaching there?
- b. Why do you think that Acts 13:48 makes it sound like “appointment unto eternal life” precedes faith? Is this the case?
- c. In 2 Timothy 2:25, what does it mean that God “grants” repentance?
- d. When you talk about your own conversion, do you emphasize God giving you eyes to see the truth or do you emphasize your ability to see the truth? Why?
  - i. And what does your answer say about what you instinctively believe about how salvation happens?
- e. What questions does all this emphasis on God’s sovereignty over salvation raise in your mind?
  - i. What troubles you about it all?
  - ii. What is joyful about it all?

## Wrap Up and Prayer

From your discussion, what resonated with you individually or as a group? Was there anything not discussed that stuck out to you from the sermon? Pray for each other along with other requests.

***If you have further questions about election, please email [discipleship@northview.org](mailto:discipleship@northview.org).***