

In His Mercy, God Chose You

When loved ones don't believe in Jesus despite being raised by Christian parents or growing up in church, it can leave us with deep aches and painful questions about God's sovereign choices and our free will. The apostle Paul understood this ache and wrestling. Even as he celebrated the inclusion of Gentile believers into God's family through faith in Jesus, he was distraught by what this same truth meant for Jews who did not come to believe in Jesus. In Romans 9-11, Paul laments his concern for the Jews and demonstrates what it looks like to turn to Scripture to seek wisdom for the concerns of our hearts. Join us as we dig into Paul's teaching, a teaching that informs what we today call the doctrine of predestination. May we find comfort in the truth that God, in his mercy, has chosen us. Like Paul, may the truth of God's mercy give us hope and assurance that God is patient and there is still time for those we love to believe and receive salvation in Jesus Christ.

AWARENESS Before listening reflect on what you already know or understand about topics we'll cover in the episode.

- What thoughts or feelings come to mind when you hear the word predestination?
- How do Christians come to faith?



LISTEN TO THE EPISODE: [In His Mercy, God Chose You](#)

READ [Romans 9-11](#)

REFLECTION After listening, consider the following questions:

- In segment 1, host Darrell Delaney offers this definition of predestination: "God had a purpose and a plan that he set in place, and he makes the sovereign choice; not based on what [humans] are going to do; not based on who [any one] is going to be; but because he chose. He chose because he chose." As Scripture testifies to it and Darrell summarizes it, predestination is meant to be a comfort to us. How so? Do you find it comforting? Why or why not?
- If you could have joined Darrell's conversation with host Scott Hoezee about whether or not predestination is *fair*, what would you have added or asked?
- Scott says that Romans 10 calls us to be preachers who proclaim what we confess and believe. Even if you aren't a pastor who preaches on Sunday mornings, how can you preach and bring the good news?
- Are there people that you hope will come to faith like Paul hoped for his fellow Jews? How are you sharing your faith with them? What do you pray for them?
- Though God chose us first, he also wants us to choose him. In segment 3, Darrell and Scott describe the tension between human free will and God's all-powerfulness, as a mystery. How do you explain or make sense of this mystery? Scott makes a distinction that "God actively chooses whom he saves, but he doesn't actively damn the others, he just lets them be" Do you find that helpful for understanding the tension? Why or why not?

RELATED PASSAGES for further study

[Isaiah 52:7-10](#), [1 Kings 19:9-18](#), [Romans 1:21-25](#), [Revelation 7](#)

CONCLUSION

God's family tree includes all those who have faith in Jesus Christ as Lord. This crosses denominational lines and is filled with people of different ethnicities and cultures, economic backgrounds, physical and mental abilities, and criminal records or lists of accomplishments. Read Revelation 7 and join in the heavenly worship and praise God with all those whom God has marked with God's seal of salvation.

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