

“Has the Word of God Failed?”

Romans 9:6-12

“Sovereignty is God’s right and power to do all that He pleases. Providence is God using His sovereignty to bring about an ultimate purpose for the universe that cannot fail. The nature of God’s providence does not take away man’s will. His providence is formed by His wisdom, justice, and mercy.” (John Piper)

“God’s sovereign election, or predestination, does not eliminate man’s choice in faith. Divine sovereignty and human response are integral and inseparable parts of salvation, though how they operate together only the infinite mind of God knows.” (John MacArthur)

- The reliability of the Word of God:
 - Our unfaithfulness does not nullify the faithfulness of God (Romans 3:3). God’s faithfulness is based on His glory and His reliability, not ours (2 Timothy 2:13). The good news of the Gospel is that God keeps His Word (Acts 13:32-33). All of the promises of God find their YES in Christ for God’s glory (2 Corinthians 1:20-21).
- “For not all who are descended from Israel belong to Israel...”
 - There is a physical belonging to something and there is a spiritual belonging to something (Romans 2:28-29). We become children of God by being born of God. It is not by our heritage, our personal desires, or a man made system that we are born again (John 1:11-13).
- Being Abraham’s heir did not by default lead to salvation (Galatians 1:15-16).
 - Paul brings two arguments for this point:
 - Ishmael and Isaac, who had different mothers, were not both children of the promise (Genesis 16:25-16; Genesis 21:1-7).
 - Jacob and Esau, who had the same mother, were also not both children of the promise (Genesis 25:19-28).
 - John the Baptist and Jesus also presented this argument (Luke 3:7-9; John 8:37-40).
- God does not choose people for salvation based on their works, but based on His purposes for His glory (Ephesians 1:3-14).
 - “He chose us in Him before the foundation of the world” (1 Corinthians 1:26-31).
 - “That we should be holy and blameless before Him” (Jude 1:24-25).
 - “In love He predestined us for adoption to Himself” (Romans 3:10-11; Romans 8:29-30).
 - “According to the purpose of His will, to the praise of His glorious grace (Ephesians 2:4-10).
- “The older will serve the younger...”
 - God does things His way. His thoughts are not our thoughts and His ways are not our ways (Isaiah 55:8-9). As Paul is continuing to quote Old Testament scripture, (15 times in this chapter) he is being double authoritative (2 Peter 3:15-16).

“What Paul is telling us in this great chapter is that if we are born again, if we are children of God, then we will always be that, and nothing and no one in heaven or hell or anywhere else can ever separate us from the love of God which is in Christ Jesus our Lord and it has always been that way.” (D. Martyn Lloyd-Jones)

Worship: God Omniscient, God All Knowing (Matt Boswell) Jesus I My Cross Have Taken (Indelible Grace Music)
It Is Well (Various Artists) **Closing Song:** I Stand Amazed (Norton Hall Band)

Announcements:

***Fellowship:** TONIGHT (and every Sunday night) immediately following the worship service, we invite and encourage everyone to join us in the gym for fellowship! We will be practicing social distancing while sitting down to eat and to fellowship. We ask that when you are up and walking around that you please have your masks on. We find fellowship to be a valuable tool in growing in love for one another and building strong relationships!

***Members Meeting:** NEXT Sunday, January 17th, immediately following the worship service, we will be having a short Members Meeting to vote on Joel Decker as our Associate Pastor. In the meeting we will have a brief Q&A time followed by the vote.

***Collecting Donations:** During the month of January we will be collecting donations for Heartbeats. The following items will be used to make COVID-friendly single use "activity packs" that will be used by children and families during supervised visits: gallon Ziploc bags, coloring books for all ages, stickers, small puzzles, and fun workbooks.

***Volunteers Needed:** We have a couple of opportunities for our church members to get involved in serving our church body:

→SET-UP/TEAR-DOWN: If you are interested in serving in this ministry or have any questions about serving in this ministry, please talk to Hunter or Nate!

→CHILDREN'S MINISTRY: If you are interested in serving in this ministry or have any questions about serving in this ministry, please talk to Kalen and Courtney!