

God Will Do What He Chooses

International Bible Lesson

Romans 9:6-18

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“For God says to Moses, ‘I will have mercy on whom I have mercy, and I will have compassion on whom I have compassion’” (Romans 9:15).

Sometimes when we study the Bible we spend so much time and thought to understand a few difficult truths that we miss many more important truths that God wants us to remember; such can be the case with Romans 9:6-18. Therefore, in no particular order, consider what we can learn from these few verses. God can work miracles. God has chosen to have spiritual children and He has made and fulfilled promises to them. God has merciful and compassionate reasons for what He does. God can choose our occupations before we are born or have done anything good or bad; such as Jacob and Esau. God can display His power and proclaim His name through anyone whether they are known as good or bad; such as, Moses and Pharaoh. God has the full range of emotions from love to hate, and God controls His emotions and always acts with compassion rather than be unjust. God calls people to serve Him and others without regard to their birth order, nationality, or race. God does not always give us His reasons for everything He decides or has decided. For good reasons, God can harden someone’s heart; He can strengthen their desire to oppose Him and His people. God’s word will not fail. God can choose the exact time of someone’s birth and choose how many children will be in a family. God can choose who we are to serve and who will serve us. All of these truths demonstrate a greater truth: as our great and loving creator, God will work in history and achieve all His plans.

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Thinking Further

1. Why might it be easier for a Christian to understand Romans 9:6-18 than a non-Christian?

2. In Romans 9:6-18, who did Paul write were God's children?

3. What does Paul refer his readers to in order to help them better understand God's ways? Why might Paul have done this?

4. In Romans 9:6-18, what attributes, powers, qualities, and truths about God did Paul reveal or tell his readers to consider?

5. What do you conclude when you read Bible verses or teachings in the Bible that appear to be contradictory?