

## Romans 9:10–13

### What Determines Who Believes?

#### Monday, November 13, 2023 • Read Romans 9:10–13

Questions from the Scripture text: How does v10 convey the idea that this is a new part of the reasoning? Who conceived? By how many fathers? Whose father? What hadn't happened to the children (v11)? What hadn't they done? What was the cause, then—that what should stand? According to what had God purposed? What does not bring about that purpose? What does bring about that purpose? What promise was made to whom (v12)? What does Malachi record about that promise (v13)?

**What determines who gets saved?** Romans 9:10–13 prepares us for the sermon in the midweek prayer meeting. In these four verses of Holy Scripture, the Holy Spirit teaches us that **God's loving choice is what determines who gets saved.**

**Who doesn't determine who will believe in Christ.** In vv6–9, the Spirit taught us that there is a distinction between the visible church and the invisible church, between those who are children of the flesh and those who are children of God. The invisible church, the children of God, are those who have their adoption through faith in the promised Seed, Jesus Christ.

But that prompts another question: how is it that some who are in the church come to believe in Jesus Christ, when there are many in the church who never believe?

v10 quickly dismisses the idea that the difference is determined by the parents. Esau and Jacob not only had the same father, but the same mother, coming into the world in the same season of their lives.

And v11 quickly dismisses the idea that the difference is determined by the children. The children weren't even born yet. They had done nothing, either one way or the other, to distinguish one from the other.

**Who does determine who will believe in Christ.** So, if it wasn't due to the parents, or due to the children, then who? "that the purpose of God according to election might stand." Election is first: God setting His love upon some. Then came a purpose according to that election: to bring a Redeemer into the world, the Seed that was promised to Abraham and came through Isaac, and to bring the elect to faith in that Redeemer.

Whenever someone comes to faith, it is because this purpose of God must stand. Notice that this purpose is according to election, not reprobation. Those who are reprobate bring wrath upon themselves, but God drives history not with an eye to His wrath but with an eye to redeeming those whom He loved from all eternity.

**How the purpose is made to stand.** So, how is this purpose brought about? It is not by works. By the deeds of the law no flesh will be justified (cf. 3:20). Rather, God calls to faith (v11) by the preaching of the promise, and He gives faith to those whom He calls, so that they believe Him (cf. 10:14–16).

In Malachi, God addressed wicked Jacob with a Word that would bring salvation, because of His love for him whom He would bring to faith—even though Esau/Edom had been justly hated (v13, cf. Mal 1:2–3), and the faith-giving promise of redemption was not preached there (cf. v4). The Old Testament closed with a word of hope offered to a sinful people because God Himself would come in a day of salvation in which He turns hearts by the calling of His Word (cf. Mal 4:5–6).

What opportunity do you have when you hear preaching? How is this reflected in the frequency and attentiveness with which you hear preaching? Who can make that opportunity effectual to you? How do your prayers reflect this desire?

*Sample prayer: Our gracious God and heavenly Father, we thank You that You give faith, by Your call, according to Your love. Grant unto us that faith by Your Spirit, we ask, through Christ, AMEN!*

**Suggested songs:** ARP32AB "What Blessedness" or TPH426 "How Vast the Benefits Divine"

**(The following is a machine-generated transcription. PLEASE BE AWARE of—and patient with—transcribing errors. If there is something confusing or obviously erroneous, you are invited to listen to the audio recording via [hopewellarp.org](http://hopewellarp.org))**

Romans chapter 9 verse 10, through 13. These are god's words. And not only this. But when rebecca also had conceived by one man, Even by our father, Isaac. For the children. Not yet being born nor having done any good or evil. That the purpose of god, according to election might stand Not of works, but of him who calls?

It was said to her. The older shall serve the younger. As it is written. Jacob, i have loved. But he saw, I have hate it. And then this ends this reading of gods inspired. And in there and twerked.

We learned in verses 6 through 9. The the way someone is saved. Is not by. Uh, who they are? Abraham was not saved by being abraham. He was saved by the seed. To whom the promise was given. The promise was spoken to abraham, but it belonged properly. To abraham's seed and as abraham believed in and about the one who was promised to him, namely the lord jesus christ to had come from him that promise, which belongs to jesus, Became abraham's through faith in jesus.

Just like the promise of salvation for all for whom jesus lived for all for whom. Jesus died for all for him. Jesus rose again, that promise that is made to jesus becomes yours. Through faith in jesus christ, through faith, in the seed, who is promised to abraham, which makes him the father of those who Uh without circumcision believe like he did in genesis 15 uncircumcised but believing and also of course to the circumcised Whose circumcision pointed them to the promise.

That was given. Um, even Uh, before circumcision itself was given. And so circumcision was a sign and seal Of a promise that belonged to jesus and belongs by faith. To all who believe. In. Jesus. And so there's this question, then. If salvation comes, Um, To jesus. And in jesus to all who believe in jesus, if he is the promised seed to whom and in whom Uh, salvation comes who determines Who is going to believe in jesus?

Abraham believed in jesus sarah believed in jesus, although both of the quotes. In verses 6 through 9 are from times one, when Abraham was not believing as well as he should and where Sarah was not believing as well as she should. And yet, of course, lord jesus, who is perfect is the one into whom they believed and were justified.

But who decides they were saved by believing? And isaac, of course, was not saved by being the one through whom the seed came. He was saved. Similarly, by hoping in the seed, who came through him. And even Ishmael, we have good reason to believe. If we examine the bible carefully was saved, obviously not by being the one through whom the promise, did not.

Come and dad had to be sent away. Um, when Isaac was weaned, But Ishmael, if he was saved as we believe that he was Was saved by believing in jesus. But who determines? Who Will believe in jesus. And the first, Uh, part of the incident that we see here is not the parents.

He says, in verse 10, not only this. But when rebecca also, I had conceived. Uh, so Just as Uh, abraham had fathered two children. So Isaac fathers two children but now Isaac doesn't follow them. Through two different women, he fathers as two children through the one wife, rebecca, in fact, not only Uh, they do they have the same father and the same mother but they have the same version.

Of the father and mother because they're They are conceived at the same time. Right. A husband and wife may have many children, we have eight and each of you. Uh, came to us by the lord's. Mercy at a different time, in our lives. And so different place in our spiritual growth and different place in our wisdom.

Different place in our faithfulness, and unfaithfulness And yet jacob Nissan not only had the same father and the same mother. But the at the same time they shared the same womb. And so it was not their parents that were the determining factor. And whether or not, they would believe.

And it was not in themselves. That was the determining factor. Because the word that comes to her. The older shall serve the younger in verse 12. Is born out or confirmed? By the word that malachi speaks hundreds of years later more than Um, a thousand years later. As it is written.

Jacob. I have loved. But he saw, i have hated. And in this case it is talking about, esau perishing in his sense. As hebrews 12. Warns us against even us who are in the church even us who have many of the same experiences and advantages even us who participate in a worship.

That is a satellite worship service of the worship that takes place in Zion. That's all in the context. There in hebrews chapter 12, about esau and here he is.

Quoting from malachi chapter 1. About jacob and esau explaining. Why it is that jacob despite his wickedness? Is going to be shawn mercy. Why it is that up to this point in history? There are precious few, if any Believers from among the descendants of esau. One after another perishing in their sins and comparatively many more descendants of jacob.

Descendants of israel who have believed in the lord, jesus, who was promised and who were, as we call them. Old testament saints. Of course, the election that belongs to israel as a whole as a covenant people on earth as a visible church. Does not apply to every member within the church, but only to those who are brought, To faith, but there is this.

There is this reality, then that is displayed in the difference between israel and edam. In the difference. Between jacob. And esau. And so it is not the parent to make the difference. It is not anything in the children. The mate that make the difference. They were not yet born when the lord said this.

Um, For the children. Not yet being born nor having done any good or evil. So, what is it? That makes the difference. And we see that in the second part of verse 11, That the purpose of god. That the purpose of god. Should stand might stand. That is what makes the difference.

Now, why does God purpose? But while the reason that god purposes to To save some. Is because of election. Notice that the purpose is according to election, not reprobation Election, is that love of god that he sets upon some before the foundations of the world in the lord, jesus christ, his determination to adopt them in the beloved to make them to be like the beloved Um, Election, is that?

Um the same thing as we were considering when we talked about the word. Four knowledge, or for new In chapter 8. And verse 29. And so there's this election, there's this love. There's this determination to unite a people to the lord jesus christ. There's this determination to adopt people particular individuals in the lord jesus christ.

And it is that election that in according to this verse is driving the purpose of god. As he brings. Some people to, to faith. His purpose then is That they having. Sinned and fallen would need be redeemed by the sun, the lord jesus himself, and being brought. Into union with the sun through faith.

Uh, they would be justified made right with god. They would be adopted become children of god and therefore be sanctified to be made like the only begotten son of god until they are glorified. Uh, when they are perfected in christ and he is the firstborn among many brethren. So, this election this for knowing is what Uh, what drives the purpose of god to do all of these things?

In what we have previously called the golden chain. And so that which determined who would believe? Is. This purpose of god, according to election. That this purpose would stand. And that then answers the question of what is determined. How? Are we brought to faith in jesus christ? And faith comes by the powerful calling of god.

Not by the work of, man. Faith itself then is not a work. Um, Faith. Is. Uh, what god produces in us by his word? And so that is what's being taught in the end of verse 11 there. Not of works. But of him who calls. The nature of faith.

That it is not a work, but the abandoning all, hope of our works. And the cause of faith. That it comes by calling, by god's word that god's spirit uses to give us faith. Not something that we find in ourselves to set upon the lord, jesus christ to those two things.

Um, Are both. Necessary. Um, That it is not a work and that it is. That it is not of us. So we come to faith not of works, but of him who calls? Why So that The purpose will stay in according to election by god. Rather than Uh, the purpose standing.

As the result or fruit of an election by us. Undoubtedly. There is a choice made. When one believes in jesus christ, Chooses. To belong to him. But that is not the choice. That makes the difference. The choice of god. From all maternity. Is what produces the choice in man?

That choice comes not by works. Um, but by him who calls. And it is the fruit. Of spirit given faith. Not the cause. Of spirit given faith. So, And you come to believe in jesus christ. What made the difference. Was it your parents? Or whatever instrumentality mama, i had.

It was because god was determined to save you. And yes, he was the one who picked. Uh, your mom for you and your dad for you, he is the one. Who has told us to, Who use his means words, sacrament and prayer. And yet, all of these things, you have only because He who intended to bring you to faith.

Had appointed these means. And so, in his providence, he brought you under them, but even having brought you under them, it was still he who had to call you by his spirit. It was he who had to give

It's a vehicle, i think.

Yep.

Excuse me.

It was, he who had to give light to our minds so that we could understand light to your mind. That you could understand it is he who had to give life to our hearts. So that we could believe.

Light to your mind. So that you could believe. And so, when you come to faith in jesus christ, You don't say. All my parents gave me this faith, or i Uh, chose to have this faith. You thank god that it came not by works. But by him who calls.

And if You do not have faith or if you do not know that you have faith. One of the things that you may do, This cry out to god. That by his spirit, he would call you. And you'll probably conclude and probably rightly so later. That even that crying out to him.

Was something that his spirit gave you. By the light that he gave to your mind to understand. The life that he gave to your heart. To respond. Let's pray. Our gracious god. We thank you and praise you. That it is, your electing love. That drives history and the drives redemption.

And we pray o, god, that you would work in our hearts. We thank you for calling us. We thank you for. All of. The providence that has gone into. Fulfilling that purpose. That was according To your election. And so we pray that you would receive glory and honor and praise.

The love and devotion of our hearts. And lives forever and ever. Which we ask in jesus name, amen.