



Lesson Composed and Compiled from Several Christian Authors—Organized for
Lesson by Gerald Cumby

Romans 9-11, These chapters address profound questions about God's sovereignty, the relationship between Israel and the Gentiles, and the unfolding of God's redemptive plan throughout history.

The three (3) chapters explore the relationship between Jews and Gentiles regarding salvation. Paul stresses that God's mercy and plan for salvation include both groups, as foretold by Old Testament prophets. Chapter 9 begins with Paul expressing his anguish over Israel's rejection of Jesus, but he reassures that God's word has not failed. He notes that not all descendants of Israel are considered true Israel and reaffirms that salvation is open to everyone who believes, regardless of ancestry. This chapter is key for understanding that God's redemptive plan extends to all people.

Romans 9 – God's Sovereign Freedom and Faithfulness

Paul begins with anguish.

- ✓ **His people—ethnic Israel—have rejected their Messiah, and it breaks his heart.**
- ✓ **He even says he could wish himself cursed if it meant they would be saved (9:1-5).**
- ✓ **But rather than questioning God's goodness, Paul addresses the deeper issue:**
 - **Has God's word failed? His answer is no.**
 - **Why? Because not all who are descended from Israel belong to Israel.**

- **God’s promises have always been directed toward the children of promise, not simply biological descendants.**
- **He uses examples from Israel’s history to make the point:**
 - ❖ **God chose Isaac, not Ishmael (9:7–9)**
 - ❖ **God chose Jacob, not Esau—before they were born and before they had done anything good or bad (9:10–13)**

God’s Sovereign Freedom: “I will have mercy on whom I have mercy” (9:15). (PROBABLY THE MOST CONFRONTATIONAL PART OF THE CHAPTER AND PERHAPS THE BIBLE).

- **It sounds unfair to modern ears, and Paul anticipates that reaction.**
 - ✓ **However, he insists that the Creator has the right to show mercy or harden hearts as he sees fit (9:14–24).**
 - ✓ **Importantly, Paul also reaffirms that God’s mercy is not limited to Jews.**
 - ✓ **In fact, the prophets predicted that Gentiles would be included (9:25–26) and that only a remnant of Israel would be saved (9:27–29).**
 - ✓ **So even Israel’s unbelief fits within God’s larger plan—a plan that includes judgment, but also grace.**

We can’t bypass the teaching on the Sovereignty of God without speaking on the will of God.

In 2 Peter 3:9, Peter said, “The Lord is...not willing that any should perish, but that all should come to repentance.”

This clearly states that it is not the Lord’s will for anyone to perish, but people are perishing. *Relatively few people are saved compared to the number that are lost.*

Only 33% (approximate) of the world state they are Christian (Evangelically speaking: Only about 3% of the world are “born again”).

FACT: God’s will for people concerning salvation is not being accomplished. HOWEVER, HE knew that before he made each one of us.

How many abortions have there been in the United States since 1973? 50 million **abortions have been performed** in the **United States since 1973**...23% have been late-term abortions...11.5 million late-term abortions. In our lifetime, our generation has contributed to the genocide of more people than any other time in human history. **MY FRIEND...WE ARE GUILTY AS CHARGED!**

WHO IS THE WORLD WOULD THINK THAT GOD MUST APPROVE EVERYTHING BEFORE IT IS ACCOMPLISHED? NOT ME!

From all indications, God in His Sovereign will, because of man's desire to take the low road in lieu of the higher ground, has given us "FREE WILL" to make our choices in life. Free Will involves three (3) choices for each individual to make as we walk the road of life.

- 1. God's Permissive Will**
- 2. God's Preferred Will**
- 3. God's Perfect Will.**

Here are the key differences between God's Permissive Will, Preferred Will, and Perfect Will:

- God's Permissive Will: Refers to God's permission to allow certain events, including sinful actions, to occur as part of His overarching plan. It allows for freedom in human decision-making while still ensuring that God's perfect plan is ultimately fulfilled.**
- God's Preferred Will: Often interpreted as God's "Perfect Will" for individuals, which is good, spiritually mature, and pleasing to God. It emphasizes the importance of aligning one's life with God's will, even if it involves making difficult choices.**
- God's Perfect Will: This is the ultimate goal of God's plan, which is complete and without flaws. It encompasses all of God's intentions and purposes for humanity, including the suffering and tragedy that may arise from human choices.**

These distinctions help clarify how God's will is understood in relation to human free will and the consequences of those choices.

Under no circumstance is God tolerant of sin. He hates sin. Yet...God is a God of mercy...He accepts the repentant sinner.

If you desire to truly follow God's specific plan for your life, the only way to find and follow His unique will for you is to live according to His PREFERRED will for all Believers. That implies regular times of prayer, Bible study, soaking in His Word, and Christian fellowship. These were designed to shape and renew your goals and desires, refresh your focus and priorities and clear away the uncertainties that we often face when trying to find God's will for our lives.

All this has and is happening because the Lord gave us the freedom to choose. He does not “will” anyone into hell.

- *He paid for the sins of the whole world (1 John 2:2; 1 Tim. 4:10), but we must choose to put our faith in Christ and receive His salvation.*
- *People are the ones choosing hell by not choosing Jesus as their Savior.*
- *It is the free-will of man that damns them, not God.*

Did you know?

1. *People virtually have to climb over the roadblocks that God puts in their way to continue on their course to hell.*
2. *The cross of Christ and the drawing power of the Holy Spirit are obstacles that every sinner encounters before they obliterate their rights to enter heaven.*
3. *No one will ever stand before God and be able to fault Him for withholding the opportunity to be saved.*
4. *The Lord (the Holy Spirit) woos every person to Him, but we have to cooperate.*
5. *Ultimately, the Lord simply enforces the consequences of people’s own choices.*

Summary:

1. *God has a perfect plan for every person’s life (Jer. 29:11), but He doesn’t make us walk that path.*
 - a) *We are free moral agents with the ability to choose.*
 - b) *He has told us what the right choices are (Deut. 30:19), but He doesn’t make those choices for us.*
2. *God gave us the power to control our destinies.*

YIELD TO THE POWER OF THE HOLY SPIRIT!

- **Theology of Work website:** <https://www.theologyofwork.org/new-testament/romans>
- **David Guzik--**<https://enduringword.com/bible-commentary/romans>
- **Grace Reach--**<https://www.gracereach.org/blog>