

Romans 9:14-26 – Belgic Confession 16 – “Chosen for Glory”

Introduction: **Because by God’s will we have been made vessels of mercy, we are prepared for to the glory to come.**

1. No Injustice in His Choice

- In our text, Paul is anticipating objections to what he has been discussing at the beginning of chapter 9. He has been explaining why some Jews have not believed the gospel. He explains that the true people of Israel are not a biologically related group, but are those who receive the promise. It is that call of God that brings someone to faith.
- In this first part he responds to the accusation that this is unjust. The Jews would argue that they are the ones who seek to follow God’s law. If anyone should be called by God, is it not them? Paul points them to Exodus 33 to remind them that they are only in that position by God’s grace. There is nothing that sinful people can do to claim God’s mercy. God’s people are chosen without reference to their works. That is why it is called **Unconditional Election**.
- God also hardens according to his will. He did so to Pharaoh so that he could show his power throughout the earth. This hardening should never terrify the believer (Canons of Dordt 1.16). We cannot know if we are elect, so we shouldn’t ask. However, election is manifested in faith. If you have faith in Jesus then you should not doubt that you are an elect child of God.

2. No Unfairness in His Condemnation

- The second objection that Paul deals with is that it is unfair to condemn people who are predestined to not believe. There are **two responses** to this:
 - **First**, the Belgic Confession reminds us that God wills to leave people in their sin. They are punished for their sin, the sin that they willfully live in, and God does not bend their wills in that direction.
 - **Second**, Paul responds that we need to remember that we are creatures, not God. Many people will only believe in a god of their own creation. In the Scriptures we are confronted by a God who is not like us. A God who has his own purpose in choosing some and condemning others.
- Paul gives us an insight into God’s purpose in election and reprobation (condemnation). He shows his patience in allowing those prepared for condemnation to live in rebellion and hatred against him. He will also show his wrath in the horrible punishment of hell.
- On the other hand, those who have been saved will know the glory of God, because it will be revealed in them. They will see what they have been saved from and what they have been given in Jesus. This should be our focus in speaking about election. We are unable to turn to God on our own, but he chose us for glory. We take comfort knowing that we are not chosen because of our works, but entirely because of his mercy.