

Scripture Reading:

Romans 9

COF: 16

Psalters Singing:

257:1-3 – 441:1-2 – 241:5, 7, 9 – 304:6-7

To ponder: *Are you part of those in Ps. 33:8?*

A. As you stroll through His creation: Ps. 104:25, 34

B. As you review His providences: Ps. 107:21

C. As you adore His redemptive work: 2 Cor 9:20; 1 John 3:1; Rev. 7:15

D. As you explore His sovereign & eternal election of sinners: Eph. 1:4,5

1. This truth is not for *debate*

2. This truth is not to be *abused* (Canon I, 6)

3. This truth is revealed to encourage us unworthy sinners (Matt. 15:21-28)

GOD'S ETERNAL & SOVEREIGN ELECTION OF SINNERS:

IT IS YOUR GREATEST GROUND OF HOPE!

I. God did not need to reveal this aspect of His will about salvation

A. This is the implication of Deut. 29:29

B. Yet God did reveal a snippet of His secret/eternal mind in Scripture: Rom. 9

1. He decreed to reveal Himself in His various attributes: vs. 20-24

2. He decreed to save lost sinners and not to save other lost sinners:

a. His decree is *eternal* (Rom. 8:29) – *Sovereign* (Matt. 11:26) – *wise* (Rom. 11:33) – *unchangeable* (Rom 8:29)

3. He revealed His choices are *sovereign*: Rom 9:10-13:

II. God gave you this knowledge about His secret will to encourage you

A. That He willed the salvation of sinners is **Gospel!**

1. consider your condition: Eph. 2:1-3; CoF, art 14-15; Canons III/IV, art 3

B. That He willed the salvation of His sinners **as united to Christ** is also Gospel!

1. Eph. 1:4-5; John 6:43-45

Wrap up:

A. For encouragement: *election is the greatest encouragement to come to Christ*

B. For comfort: *best proof one is elected is his/her coming to Christ: John 6:45*

C. For correction: *don't let Satan lead you to believe to be reprobate: Canons I, 16*

Treasured Gems about Election

It is only as God seeks us that we can be found of Him. God is seeker rather than sought. (A. Wood)

Let man go to primary school of faith and repentance before he goes to the university of election and predestination. (G. Whitefield)

As God did not choose you because you were so good, so God will forsake you because you are so bad. (John Flavel)

If God did not choose His people without any conditions, no man would ever choose God under any condition.

The ground of the distinction that exists among men is the sovereign will of God and that alone. But the ground of damnation to which the reprobate are consigned is sin and sin alone. (John Calvin)

Eternal love devised the plan. Eternal wisdom drew the model. Eternal grace comes down to build it. (Henry Law)