

O U T L I N E

of exegesis of Romans 9:14-33

I. The apostle answers the objection that we must not believe in God's liberty to elect whom He chooses to eternal life, regardless of any merit whatsoever, for fear of destroying our belief in the righteousness of God. vv.14-29.

A. The answer of the divine declaration. vv.14-18.

(It is unthinkable that God is unrighteous. Hence if God declares this sovereignty of election to be His prerogative, His declaration should convince us that it is not incompatible with our belief in His righteousness.)

1. The objection stated. v.14.
2. The divine statement of election to mercy. v.15.
3. The apostle's inference from the divine statement. v.16.
4. The divine statement of election to hardening. v.17.
5. The apostle's inference from the two divine statements. v.18.

B. The answer of philosophy. vv.19-24.

On a basis of comparison between man and God, man has no right to question the authority of the Creator to determine within Himself the principles whereby He will save some men from the wreckage of lost humanity. It is for His own wise purposes, and to reveal His character that He saves some and hardens others.

1. The philosophic objection -- a restatement of a phase of the main objection, (found in v.14). v.19.
2. A rebuke to the man who replies against God. v.20.
3. The analogy of the sovereign right of the potter over his clay. v.21.