

4. But in addition to this absolute sovereignty which God possesses as Creator, observe the benevolence with which He uses His authority. vv.22-24.

C. The answer of the fact. vv.25-29.

God has expressly foretold that He will call many from among the Gentiles and reject many of the Jews. What God actually does cannot be unrighteous.

1. God's declaration that many outside those who were His people should be called to be His people.

vv.25-26.

2. God's declaration that many within the people of Israel should be rejected. vv.27-29.

II. God rejected Israel because they sought to claim His acceptance on a ground of merit. vv.30-33.

(This subject runs over into chapter 10.)

A. A new objection -- vv.30-31.

1. The Gentiles, who did not seek righteousness have attained it, if what you say is true. v.30.

2. Israel, who sought the law of righteousness, has not attained. v.31.

B. Paul's answer-- Israel was seeking in the wrong way. vv.32-3.

1. Seeking righteousness in the wrong way, they stumbled at the stumblestone of the free grace of God through the Humiliated Messiah. v.32.

2. God had foretold this stumblingstone. v.33.