

“God’s Choice or Ours”



OPEN IT

- When you think about your relationship with God, which picture feels more natural to you: a tug-of-war, where you’re struggling to figure out what God wants, or a dance, where you’re learning to follow His lead? Why?
- What is something in life that you’ve learned to appreciate even though you know you’ll never completely understand it?

READ IT:

- Romans 8:28-30
- Romans 10:9-13

Additional Helpful Passages:

- Romans 3:21-25
- Romans 3:28
- Romans 6:1-4

EXPLORE IT

- Read Romans **8:28-30** and **Romans 10:9-13** side by side. What does each passage emphasize about how salvation happens? What do you see Scripture saying about God’s initiative and our response?
- What does “*foreknew*” mean in the flow of **Romans 8**?

- In **Romans 8:29**, Paul says, *“those God foreknew he also predestined.”* What does the surrounding passage tell us about what God is doing for His people? How does this connect with the promise of **Romans 8:28**?
- Look carefully at **Romans 8:29-30**. What sequence of actions does Paul attribute to God? What does this chain communicate about God's purposes for those who belong to Him?
- What does **Romans 10** ask us to do?
- In **Romans 10:9-13**, identify every action or response associated with the person who is saved. What words does Paul use to describe our response to Jesus?
- Why do you think Paul emphasizes in **Romans 10:12-13** that there is *“no difference between Jew and Gentile”* and that *“Everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved”*? What does this tell us about the scope of God's invitation?
- **Romans 8:30** says, *“those he called, he also justified,”* while **Romans 10:13** says, *“Everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved.”* How do these two statements challenge us to hold together God's action and human response?
- The message says that calling salvation a mystery doesn't mean Scripture is unclear about how we are saved. Look at **Romans 10:9-13**. What does this passage make unmistakably clear about the way a person responds to Jesus?
- The message encouraged us to *“Look BACK: God was working before you knew it.”* What do you see in Romans 8:28-30 that supports this idea? What does Paul say God was doing before the believer's response?
- The message also says, *“Look UP: God is calling you to trust and follow.”* How does **Romans 10:9-10** describe active faith? What would it mean for faith to be more than simply agreeing with facts about Jesus?
- Read **Romans 10:11-13** again. What do these verses tell us about who can come to Jesus? How should the universal invitation of **Romans 10:13** affect the way Christians think about evangelism and the people around them?

DO IT:

- **Look Back: Notice Grace.** Spend 10 minutes this week looking back over your story with Jesus. Write down three moments when, in hindsight, you can see God working before you recognized what He was doing. Thank Him specifically for each one.
- **Look Up: Respond in Trust.** Choose one area of your life where you have been trying to maintain control. Each morning this week, consciously surrender that area to God and pray something simple like: “Jesus, I trust Your leadership today.”
- **Look Around: Extend the Invitation.** Identify one person in your normal circle who may be far from Jesus. Pray for them by name throughout the week, and look for one natural opportunity to show them God's love or begin a spiritual conversation.
- **Choose Wonder Over Argument.** The next time you encounter a difficult theological question you cannot completely explain, resist the urge to immediately “win” the conversation. Spend time in Scripture, ask honest questions, and allow the mystery to produce wonder, worship, and humility rather than pride.
- **Celebrate the God Who Chose You.** Spend time this week worshiping God specifically for His grace in salvation. Read Romans 8:28-30 slowly, then Romans 10:9-13, thanking God both for His initiative and for the privilege of responding to Him in faith.