

GOD'S SOVEREIGNTY **AND HUMAN RESPONSIBILITY** **Romans 9-11**

Today we'll seek to answer the question: How do people become Christians?

I. ROMANS INDICATIONS - From Romans 9-11
- God's sovereignty and human responsibility

People become Christians by

A. GOD'S SOVEREIGN MERCY - Chapter 9

1. God has a passionate missionary (1-5)
2. God has kept His promises (6-13)
 - a. To Abraham (6-9) > Choosing Isaac as the seed of promise and not Ishmael
 - b. To Isaac (10-13) > Choosing the younger Jacob over the older Esau
3. God is not unjust (14-18)
 - a. He was compassionate with Israel after their golden calf idolatry (14-16)
 - b. He judged Pharaoh and hardened his heart (17-18)
4. God calls whomever He wills (19-29)
 - a. He owes no man an explanation for his actions (19-21)
 - b. He makes His glory known by His choices (22-26)
 - c. He preserves a Jewish remnant (27-29)
5. God is concerned about the unbelieving (30-33)

People become Christians by

B. MAN'S SALVATION RESPONSIBILITY - Chapter 10

1. Refuse a works-based salvation (1-4)
 - Quit leaning on the Law as a means of attaining righteousness
2. Rely on righteousness by faith (5-13)
 - a. The content is accessible (5-8) > The gospel is knowable and being made known
 - b. Confession results in salvation (9-13)
 - 1) The act of confession (9-10) > Mouth and mind involved
 - 2) The assurance of conversion (11-13) - Isaiah's promise and God's policy
3. Report the good news to others (14-15)
4. Remember not all will believe (16-21)

People become Christians by

C. GOD'S SOVEREIGNTY AND HUMAN RESPONSIBILITY - Chapter 11

1. God's Sovereignty (7-11)
2. Human Responsibility (19-23)

II. **BIBLICAL TENSION**: God or man in salvation?

A. PASSAGES INDICATING GOD'S SOVEREIGNTY IN SALVATION

1. The Reality - Romans 3:10-12
 - Because man is totally depraved and absolutely unable to save himself, God, by His sovereign grace, elects some to salvation
2. God's Response: Romans 8:29-30; Acts 13:48; Ephesians 1:3-14; II Thess. 2:13-14

B. PASSAGES INDICATING HUMAN RESPONSIBILITY IN SALVATION

1. The Reality - Acts 16:27-32
 - Because of God's love and provision of Christ as Savior, whose blood cleanses the sin of all who accept Him, sinful mankind has the opportunity to call in faith upon Christ for their salvation.
2. Man's Response: John 3:14-18, 36; Acts 10:42-43; Acts 13:38-39; Acts 26:16-20

III. **UNRESOLVED MYSTERY**: God and man in salvation!

A. CONVERSION

1. Those who would be saved must call on Christ
 - a. God enables them to call - Acts 13:48
 - b. But they must call - Romans 10:13
2. Those who would be saved must repent of sin
 - a. God grants them repentance - Rom. 2:4
 - b. But they must repent - Acts 3:19

B. CONFUSION

1. The reality of antinomy - From J. I Packer's "Evangelism and the Sovereignty of God"
 - Man is a responsible moral agent, though he is also divinely controlled; man is divinely controlled, though he is also a responsible moral agent. God's sovereignty is a reality, and man's responsibility is a reality too. p. 23 [Book published by IntersVarsity Press, 1961]
2. Let the text speak even if it doesn't support your system
3. Getting stuck is inevitable

C. CONFESSION - Romans 11:33-36

1. God is unknowable (33)
 - How unsearchable are His judgements and unfathomable His ways!
2. God is unobligated (34)
 - None have known His mind or become His counselor > He doesn't need us!
3. God is unrestricted (35)
 - He owes no one anything
4. God is unsurpassed (36)
 - a. All things are sourced in Him
 - b. All glory belongs to Him! > See Eph. 1:6, 12, 14

CONCLUSION: **How do people become Christians?**

- By God's election and their response of faith