**SERMON OUTLINE**

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| **SERMON TITLE:** | Predestined for Hell? Absolutely Not! |
| **SERMON REFERENCE:** | Romans 9 |
| **LWF SERMON NUMBER:** | #2065 |
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1. INTRODUCTION
   1. Does the Bible teach that God has created, predestined and ordained some people to go to Hell and that there is nothing they can do about it?
      1. Absolutely Not!
      2. No one is predestined to Hell.
   2. Romans 9:1-3
   3. Ours is the greatest mission on Earth, and that is the salvation of lost souls.
   4. Our message is the greatest message, and that is the glorious Gospel of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.
   5. Our Master is the greatest Master, and that is Jesus Christ Himself.
   6. The church that is not interested in evangelism and soul winning is not worthy of the ground that it occupies.
      1. We are to evangelize, or we will fossilize.
      2. Our mandate is to preach the Gospel of Jesus Christ to every person.
   7. Acts 6:1
      1. This is what the Bible said of the early church.
         1. Today’s churches do so little with so much.
         2. The early church did so much with so little.
            1. They had no colleges or seminaries.
            2. They had no printing presses or finances.
            3. They had no prestige.
            4. They went out to tell the message of a Galilean peasant who was crucified.
            5. They went out against the imperial might of Rome and the intellectual sophistication of Greece.
            6. It was said of them that they turned the world upside down.
   8. One of the leaders of the early church was Paul, and we see the concern that he had.
      1. The Apostle Paul had a sincere concern for souls.
         1. Romans 9:1
         2. Most of us would say that we are concerned for souls, but our conscience would not bear us witness.
      2. He had a steadfast concern for souls.
         1. Romans 9:2
         2. The Apostle Paul did not blow hot and then cold.
            1. He wasn’t up and down.
         3. He didn’t get under conviction and then forgot about it.
      3. He had a sacrificial concern for souls.
         1. Romans 9:3
            1. The Apostle Paul was willing to die and go to Hell if it meant that his Jewish brothers and sisters would be saved.
            2. Paul was so full of Jesus that he was willing to take their Hell if they could take his Heaven.

That’s what Jesus did on the cross for us.

* + - 1. Jesus had a sacrificial concern for souls.
  1. As Paul addressed the Jewish nation in this passage in Romans 9, he also had a great message to the church.
     1. In this Scripture, we learn something of the character and nature of God.
     2. In today’s message we will learn three things about God from this Scripture.
        1. When we learn these three things about God, our theology will come into focus.

1. god’s sovereign choices (romans 9:3-5)
   1. God is the God of sovereign choices.
   2. Romans 9:3-5
      1. The Jews are God’s chosen people.
   3. In Romans 9:3-5, we see that the Jews were chosen for purpose, and they were given privilege.
      1. They were given a name of honor.
         1. They are called Israelites.
         2. “Israel” means “prince.”
      2. They have the adoption.
         1. God spoke of Israel as a son.
      3. They had the glory.
         1. This speaks of the Shekinah glory of God that led them out of Egypt and into the land of Canaan.
         2. This is the Shekinah glory that dwelt in the tabernacle and in the temple.
      4. They had the covenants.
         1. These are the special agreements that God made with Abraham, Isaac and David.
         2. God has made solemn promises to the Jews.
      5. They were given the law.
         1. The Old Testament law is still the standard for all good jurisprudence and the foundation of all true law.
      6. They were given the service.
         1. This is the service of God, the Levitical rituals.
            1. These pointed toward the Lord Jesus Christ.
      7. They were given the promises.
         1. God made great and wonderful promises to the Jews.
      8. They were given the Messiah.
         1. This the Lord Jesus Christ.
         2. Romans 9:5
   4. The Jewish nation is a God-ordained, God-decreed, God-blessed, God-preserved and God-protected nation.
      1. And God is not through with them.
         1. If you want to know what God is doing in the world today, just keep your eyes on Israel.
         2. The Jewish people are God’s yardstick, His blueprint and His prophecy of what He is doing in the world.
      2. They are the ones who gave us the Messiah.
         1. We worship a Jewish Messiah.
   5. Romans 9:7
      1. Not all of the children of Abraham were chosen.
         1. Abraham had Ishmael and Isaac.
            1. God sovereignly chose Isaac, but He did not choose Ishmael.
   6. Romans 9:10-13
      1. God didn’t choose all the sons of Abraham.
         1. He chose one son, Isaac.
      2. God didn’t choose all the sons of Isaac.
         1. He chose one son, Jacob.
   7. Why does the Bible say that God loved Jacob but hated Esau?
      1. Romans 9:11, 13
      2. It is national and not personal.
         1. God did not love one of these little babies and hate the other.
         2. God did not choose one to go to Heaven and the other to go to Hell.
         3. When God is talking about Jacob and Esau, He is not talking about one boy or another boy but about two whole nations.
         4. Genesis 25:23
            1. The descendants of Esau are one nation that will serve another nation, the descendants of Jacob (the father of the twelve tribes of Israel).
      3. It is service, not salvation.
         1. God is not talking about salvation in this passage but about service.
            1. Romans 9:12

This Scripture does not say anything about saved or lost.

* + 1. It is preference, not despite.
       1. In Romans 9:13, it states that God hated Esau but loved Jacob.
          1. The way we use the word “hate” today is completely different from how they used that word in Bible times.
          2. God is saying in this passage that He has preferred one, not that He abhors the other.
       2. Luke 14:26
          1. Jesus is not saying in this passage that we are to despise our loved ones in order to be His disciples.

In fact, we love others more because we love Jesus.

* + - 1. The word “hate” in the Bible simply means “preference.”
      2. God had a preference and a sovereign choice for Jacob.
         1. He did not have a preference for Esau.
         2. This doesn’t mean that He despised Esau or that He created Esau for Hell.
  1. God is a sovereign God, and He loves lost sinners.
     1. Romans 5:8
     2. God did not predestine Esau or anyone else for Hell.
     3. God chooses individual and has preferences for nations in the realm of service.
        1. John 15:16
        2. Because God chooses one person for His service does not mean that He is going to send others to Hell.

1. God’s Spotless Character (romans 9:14-23)
   1. Romans 9:14-23
      1. Some might not like God’s choices in any realm.
         1. But God is sovereign.
         2. God does as He pleases.
         3. God answers to no one.
         4. God is God.
         5. God is not fair; He is just.
            1. God does not owe us anything but judgment.
            2. When we realize that God is just, then mercy will be important to us.
      2. God is free to pardon and free to punish.
         1. That does not mean that God does so arbitrarily.
      3. God does as He pleases, but He always pleases to do right.
         1. There is no unrighteousness with God.
   2. God pardons according to His sovereign will.
      1. Romans 9:15-16
         1. If you are saved, then you’re going to be saved by grace.
         2. God’s mercy is not rooted in man’s merit.
      2. God’s mercy is found in God because He is a merciful God.
      3. Titus 3:5
      4. Psalm 32:10
         1. If we trust God, then He will give us mercy.
      5. Proverbs 28:13
         1. If you want mercy, you can have it.
            1. It is according to God who wills to show mercy, and God wills to show us mercy.
            2. God is a merciful God.
      6. God has decided that He will show us mercy when we don’t deserve it.
         1. It is not rooted in our merit but in His mercy.
   3. Punishment is according to man’s stubborn wickedness.
      1. Romans 9:17-18
         1. When the Bible says that “God raised up Pharaoh,” that doesn’t mean that God grew him from a child.
            1. It means that God put him on the highest throne.
            2. God gave him place, power and prestige that He might bring Pharaoh down.
         2. God will be glorified by His judgment on Pharaoh.
            1. Exodus 9:16
      2. God did not override Pharaoh’s will.
         1. Eighteen times in Exodus, we find the phrase, “And Pharaoh hardened his heart,” or “Pharaoh’s heart was hardened.”
            1. About half of those times, Pharaoh hardened his own heart.

Pharaoh hardened his own heart before God hardened his heart.

* + - * 1. Exodus 8:15
        2. Exodus 8:32
      1. Pharaoh was already lost.
         1. God did not make him lost.
         2. Pharaoh had a heart set against God.
         3. All of the judgments of God upon Pharaoh only crystallized Pharaoh in his sin.
      2. God witnessed to Pharaoh and warned him.
         1. God sent a messenger to him.
         2. God sent the plagues, but Pharaoh hardened his own heart.
    1. God did not choose Pharaoh to go to Hell.
       1. Pharaoh hardened his own heart; and as a reciprocal action, God sent plagues that further hardened his heart.
       2. God used Pharaoh as an example of His punishment.
    2. God is in the business of getting glory to Himself.
       1. God’s love will be magnified in Heaven.
       2. God’s justice will be manifested in Hell.
    3. The reason why God hardened Pharaoh’s heart is because Pharaoh had already hardened his own heart.
  1. God has every right to punish sin.
     1. Romans 9:15
     2. If we want mercy, God will give us mercy.
     3. If we harden our hearts, God will further harden our hearts.
  2. Romans 9:19-23
     1. No potter would ever make a vessel just so that he could destroy it.
     2. God did not ordain some people to Hell.
     3. The reason some vessels were destroyed is because they did not realize the purpose of the Potter.
        1. Romans 9:20
           1. This verse does not say “the thing created” but “the thing formed.”

God is shaping, and some will not take the shaping.

* + - 1. Romans 9:22
         1. God, who is longsuffering, is forming and working; but these vessels of wrath are not yielding to the hands of the Potter.
    1. 2 Peter 3:9
       1. The word “longsuffering” here is the same word that is used in Romans 9.
    2. “They were fitted for destruction.”
       1. This is in the middle voice, which indicates that the vessels of wrath fitted themselves for destruction.
       2. God does not create people in order to destroy them.
          1. God is a God of love.
  1. 1 Timothy 2:4
  2. The Bible warns against people being hardened by the deceitfulness of sin.
     1. Hebrews 3:15
     2. If you harden your heart against God, then you will crystallize in your sin.
        1. God’s judgment upon you will then harden your heart even more.
  3. Romans 9:15
     1. God will show mercy to those who repent of their sin; to those who want mercy.
  4. Some people think that God is too good to punish sin, but He is too good not to punish sin.
     1. God is righteous.

1. god’s steadfast concern (romans 9:23-26)
   1. Romans 9:23-26
      1. “Osee” is Hosea.
      2. God’s steadfast purpose was to take both Jews and Gentiles and make them His children.
         1. The highest privilege on Earth is to be a son or daughter of God.
   2. God wants all people saved; He does not create anyone for Hell.
      1. John 3:16-17
         1. This passage does not say, “For God so loved the elect.”
         2. This passage does not say, “that if a certain number would believe on Him.”
      2. Isaiah 53:6
         1. Jesus died for us all.
      3. Romans 8:32
         1. Jesus died for everybody.
      4. 1 Timothy 2:4
      5. 1 John 4:14
      6. 1 John 2:1-2
         1. “He is the propitiation for our sins” means that Jesus is the satisfaction for our sins.
   3. If you want to be saved, you can be saved.
   4. Revelation 22:17
      1. Whosoever will may come.
2. CONCLUSION
   1. If you want to be saved, then God will save you and keep you.
   2. Do you know Jesus personally? If not, you can pray to Him today by asking Him to come into your life.
   3. Call upon Jesus today. Repent (turn) from your sins, and turn to Jesus. Ask Him to forgive you of your sins, and acknowledge Him as Lord of your life.
      1. Romans 3:23
      2. Romans 10:9-10
      3. Romans 10:13
      4. Acts 16:31
      5. John 3:16