

God's Sovereign choice and calling

Verses 1-4: Paul's love for his people

Verses 1-2: Paul's evangelism was life-giving.

Jews whipped him 39 x 5 times that were severe punishment,
stoned 1 time by Jews that actually a death penalty. (2 Corinthians 11:24-27)

He was committed to evangelizing the Gentiles as well as his own people, the Jews.

Verse 3: Paul is willing to risk his own life for the salvation of his own people, Israel.

- 1) Salvation of his family
- 2) On October 7, Japan time, Hamas attacked Israel and now war has broken out.

With the unstable situation in Palestine, we are troubled as to how to understand Israel biblically. However, we should pray for the peace and reconciliation of Jesus Christ to be realized in the world.

Verse 4: The Jews' privileges as God's children as well.

Israel's excellence is God's blessed covenant people (Romans 3:1).

We should pray that Israel, chosen by God with such great blessings, will fulfill their role. We pray that Israel will believe in Jesus Christ as soon as possible. And we pray that the gospel of Jesus Christ will be preached and peace will come to the Muslim people in the Palestinian.

Isaiah 19:25 "The Lord Almighty will bless them, saying, "Blessed be Egypt my people, and Assyria my handiwork, and Israel my inheritance." We should pray that God will bless both Israel and the Palestinian.

Verses 5-6: God's plan of salvation is fulfilled through Jesus Christ.

Israel's failure is not to accept Jesus Christ. But God's plan has not been destroyed by Israel's failure. God's salvation is firmly inherited and completed through Jesus Christ.

The same is true of our lives. Even when bad things happen in our lives, those bad things do not change God's plan for our lives. They do not have that power for our lives. Even if others do hard things to us, the suffering cannot ruin our lives. As Romans 8:28 says, "And we know that in all things God works for the good of those who love him, who have been called according to his purpose." When we realize that God's plan for our lives is steadily moving forward, we can even forgive our abusers from our hearts.

Verses 7-13 God's sovereign calling and choice

Children of the flesh

Hagar, Ishmael

Rebekah, Esau

Children of the spirit

Sarah, Isaac

Rebekah, Jacob

Verse 13: Just as it is written: "Jacob I loved, but Esau I hated."

But God blessed the both of the descendants of Esau and Ishmael.

([Genesis 21:18, 33:1](#))

v.14 People cannot complain about God's absolute sovereignty.

v.15 God's choice was not due to Moses' deeds but to God's mercy.

We can learn from Moses' case. He did not been chosen by God as a passionate prince at his age of 40 (Ex. 2:11-15). He was chosen by God as a helpless man who was 80 years old and even unable to speak much well (Ex. 3:1-15).

v.16 People were chosen by God's mercy, not by people's desire or will only.

v.17 Even the wicked Pharaoh was chosen by God (Ex. 9:16).

v.18 God chooses even the wicked to fulfill God's plan of salvation.

Today's point

I want to introduce Pastor. Iwamoto Enoku's testimony, who was Papa New Guinea Missionary, etc. He testified about the circumstances of his birth in memory of August 10, the day of the atomic bombing of Hiroshima. His grandfather was a descendant of the Asano family, the lords of the Hiroshima domain, and a brilliant student at Keio University. But he was a playboy, played at clubs in Ginza, lost his money and failed in business. And his grandfather's family had to move from Hiroshima to Nagoya. Fortunately, they could be saved from the atomic bombing diester. Pastor Iwamoto realized that he gave a birth as the grandson of his grandfather because of his grandfather's sins.

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When I think about it, my birth was also born because of my father's sins. But now I thank that God's guidance. We also face other evil people in our daily lives. We face them at school, at work, and in our families. This may cause us to question God's sovereignty. However, as today's verse says, God sovereignly chooses people and guides them through salvation history. God is the Creator who imagines something out of nothing ([Romans 4:17](#)). He chooses and uses even the wicked. Believing this, we should pray daily for forgiveness and blessings for those who have hurt us. [Romans 12:21](#) says, "Do not be overcome by evil, but

[overcome evil with good.](#)” It sounds like, "Never mind that people who are acting evil, we who are able to do good should continue to do good. This is that we do loving God, loving our neighbors, and blessing our enemies as well. This attitude of our faith will have victory from evil.

Let’s pray together. Beloved Heavenly Father, your plan is wonderful. God uses even what seems like failure to human eyes to make good. We pray that this wonderful loving God Father will be transmitted to the whole world. We pray in the name of Jesus Christ. Amen.