

Sermon Discussion Questions, “*Israel: A Case Study in the Mysteries of Election,*” Dr. Rod MacIlvaine, April 18, 2010

Romans 9:1-33

1. Define the word “mystery.” Do you like mysteries? Why or why not? How do you feel about theological mysteries? What do theological mysteries force you to do?
2. What happens when people try to exclude a part of scripture at the expense of God’s Word in its entirety? What should we do in order to avoid this pitfall?
3. Define the terms free will and sovereignty.
Read Romans 9:1-5. Based on these verses, how does Paul feel about his fellow Jews? Are Paul’s words in these verses the language of free will or sovereignty? How do we know Paul took free will seriously? What do these verses about Israel teach us about our choices?
4. What do you learn about God’s sovereignty in Romans 9:6-13? According to verses 10-13, on what is God’s sovereign choice **not** based?
5. What do you learn about God’s sovereignty in Romans 9:14-18? What attributes are at the heart of God’s sovereignty? On what does God base His mercy?
6. What do you learn about God’s sovereignty in Romans 9:19-21? In light of these verses, why should we be able to trust God?
7. What do you learn about God’s sovereignty in Romans 9:22-29? Look closely at v.22 and identify specific words that describe God’s character. How do these characteristics encourage you? What is the ultimate goal of God’s sovereign choice?
8. What difficult truths have been cemented in your mind as a result of this sermon? What new things did you learn from Romans 9? As a result of what you learned, how has your view of God been changed? How have you been changed?