

GOD'S ETERNAL DECREE

But we should always give thanks to God for you, brothers beloved by the Lord, because God has chosen you as the first fruits for salvation through sanctification by the Spirit and faith in the truth. It was for this He called you through our gospel, that you may obtain the glory of our Lord Jesus Christ. (**2 Thessalonians 2:13-14**)

We Believe:

By his eternal and completely free purpose of his will, God has both appointed the elect to glory and foreordained all the means through which they will be saved. The elect, who are fallen in Adam, are redeemed by Christ and are effectually called to faith in Christ by his Spirit working at the appropriate time. The elect are justified, adopted, sanctified, and kept by his power through faith to salvation. The elect are the only people who are redeemed by Christ, effectually called, justified, adopted, sanctified, and saved. (1689 LBCF 3:6)

(1 Peter 1:2; 2 Thessalonians 2:13; 1 Thessalonians 5:9-10; Romans 8:30; 2 Thessalonians 2:13; 1 Peter 1:5; John 10:26, 17:9, 6:64)

Romans 9

- 1 I am telling the truth in Christ, I am not lying, my conscience testifies with me in the Holy Spirit,
- 2 that I have great sorrow and unceasing grief in my heart.
- 3 For I could wish that I myself were accursed, *separated* from Christ for the sake of my brothers,
- 4 my kinsmen according to the flesh,
- 5 who are Israelites, to whom belongs the adoption as sons, and the glory and the covenants and
- 6 the giving of the Law and the *temple* service and the promises,
- 7 whose are the fathers, and from whom is the Christ according to the flesh, who is God over all,
- 8 blessed forever. Amen.
- 9 But *it is* not as though the word of God has failed. For they are not all Israel who are *descended*
- 10 from Israel;
- 11 nor are they all children because they are Abraham's seed, but: "bTHROUGH ISAAC YOUR SEED WILL BE NAMED."
- 12 That is, the children of the flesh are not the children of God, but the children of the promise are
- 13 considered as seed.
- 14 For this is the word of promise: "AT THIS TIME I WILL COME, AND SARAH SHALL HAVE A SON."
- 15 And not only this, but there was Rebekah also, when she had conceived *twins* by one man, our
- 16 father Isaac;
- 17 for though *the twins* were not yet born and had not done anything good or bad, so that the
- 18 purpose of God according to *His* choice would stand, not because of works but because of Him
- 19 who calls,
- 20 it was said to her, "THE OLDER SHALL SERVE THE YOUNGER."
- 21 Just as it is written, "JACOB I LOVED, BUT ESAU I HATED."
- 22 What shall we say then? Is there any unrighteousness with God? May it never be!
- 23 For He says to Moses, "I WILL HAVE MERCY ON WHOM I HAVE MERCY, AND I WILL HAVE
- 24 COMPASSION ON WHOM I HAVE COMPASSION." (**Romans 9:1-16**)