

Insider Trading and Eternity

Romans 9:1-33

I. God Knows What Takes Place

A. The gospel asserts that God knows everything which has ever taken place.

Known unto God are all his works from the beginning of the world. (Acts 15:18)

The ultimate historian could be expected to know the past.

B. God knows the future as He knows the past. Will the men of Keilah deliver me up into his hand? will Saul come down, as thy servant hath heard? O LORD God of Israel, I beseech thee, tell thy servant. And the LORD said, He will come down. Then said David, Will the men of Keilah deliver me and my men into the hand of Saul? And the LORD said, They will deliver thee up. (1 Samuel 23:11-12)

God repeatedly demonstrated an accurate knowledge of the future, telling the end from the beginning.

C. God understands all the conditions, relationships, and implications in all human actions. Woe unto thee, Chorazin! woe unto thee, Bethsaida! for if the mighty works, which were done in you, had been done in Tyre and Sidon, they would have repented long ago in sackcloth and ashes. But I say unto you, It shall be more tolerable for Tyre and Sidon at the day of judgment, than for you. And thou, Capernaum, which art exalted unto heaven, shalt be brought down to hell: for if the mighty works, which have been done in thee, had been done in Sodom, it would have remained until this day. (Matthew 11:21-23)

Given adequate information and processing capacity, one could be expected to understand and project outcomes - computers can demonstrate fractal geometry.

II. Providence Is More than Insider Trading

A. Paul faced the insider trading question directly in Romans and argued for something more. (For the children being not yet born, neither having done any good or evil, that the purpose of God according to election might stand, not of works, but of him that calleth;) (Romans 9:11)

B. The election of a people of grace was outside determination. As it is written, Jacob have I loved, but Esau have I hated. (Romans 9:13)

1. The reference is to Malachi. I have loved you, saith the LORD. Yet ye say, Wherein hast thou loved us? Was not Esau Jacob's brother? saith the LORD: yet I loved Jacob, And I hated Esau, and laid his mountains and his heritage waste for the dragons of the wilderness. (Malachi 1:2-3)

2. The amazing thing is not that God makes distinctions but rather than

He selects any for salvation at all. And the LORD passed by before him, and proclaimed, The LORD, The LORD God, merciful and gracious, longsuffering, and abundant in goodness and truth, Keeping mercy for thousands, forgiving iniquity and transgression and sin, and that will by no means clear the guilty; visiting the iniquity of the fathers upon the children, and upon the children's children, unto the third and to the fourth generation. (Exodus 34:6-7)

C. God's mercy is the only determining factor in the outworking of His plan for Jacob and Esau. So then it is not of him that willeth, nor of him that runneth, but of God that sheweth mercy. (Romans 9:16)

1. Grace always moves us from ourselves back to God. I am sought of them that asked not for me; I am found of them that sought me not: I said, Behold me, behold me, unto a nation that was not called by my name. (Isaiah 65:1)

2. The prayer on the night of the betrayal emphasizes the work of God rather than man in determining salvation. At that time Jesus answered and said, I thank thee, O Father, Lord of heaven and earth, because thou hast hid these things from the wise and prudent, and hast revealed them unto babes. Even so, Father: for so it seemed good in thy sight. (Matthew 11:25-26)

D. In this most important case the only determining factor is heaven's mercy. Therefore hath he mercy on whom he will have mercy, and whom he will he hardeneth. (Romans 9:18)

1. God cultivates behavior which will compound judgment in those who reject truth. Who changed the truth of God into a lie, and worshipped and served the creature more than the Creator, who is blessed for ever. Amen. For this cause God gave them up unto vile affections: for even their women did change the natural use into that which is against nature: And likewise also the men, leaving the natural use of the woman, burned in their lust one toward another; men with men working that which is unseemly, and receiving in themselves that recompense of their error which was meet. And even as they did not like to retain God in their knowledge, God gave them over to a reprobate mind, to do those things which are not convenient; (Romans 1:25-28)

2. There is no room in reality to separate Providence and Judgment. And in them is fulfilled the prophecy of

Esaias, which saith, By hearing ye shall hear, and shall not understand; and seeing ye shall see, and shall not perceive: For this people's heart is waxed gross, and their ears are dull of hearing, and their eyes they have closed; lest at any time they should see with their eyes, and hear with their ears, and should understand with their heart, and should be converted, and I should heal them. (Matthew 13:14-15)

III. Focus on God's Certain Mercy

- A. Who has grounds to complain about the maker's plan? Thou wilt say then unto me, Why doth he yet find fault? For who hath resisted his will? Nay but, O man, who art thou that repliest against God? Shall the thing formed say to him that formed it, Why hast thou made me thus? Hath not the potter power over the clay, of the same lump to make one vessel unto honour, and another unto dishonour? (Romans 9:19-21)
- B. Instead, consider all God endures to display grace. What if God, willing to shew his wrath, and to make his power known, endured with much longsuffering the vessels of wrath fitted to destruction: And that he might make known the riches of his glory on the vessels of mercy, which he had afore prepared unto glory, (Romans 9:22-23)
- C. The marvelous grace of God must always be both the hope of the believer and the exasperation of the damned. As it is written, Behold, I lay in Sion a stumblingstone and rock of offence: and whosoever believeth on him shall not be ashamed. (Romans 9:33)