

## John MacArthur Quotes\* ...

- He [God] had the absolute right to condemn or to save as He divinely saw fit. God's sovereignty and His grace not only are compatible but are inseparable. Because all men are sinful and deserve God's condemnation, no person is wronged or treated unjustly if God chooses to condemn him. That is justice. His mercy toward any person is purely by His grace.
- Continuing simply to declare God's truth, rather than fruitlessly trying to explain the logic of what is beyond human comprehension, Paul goes on to say, "So then it does not depend on the man who wills or the man who runs, but on God who has mercy." It is not man's choice or pursuit but God who initiates mercy for the sinner. Salvation is never initiated by human choice or merited by zealous human effort. It always begins in God's sovereign, gracious, and eternal will.
- He [Paul] does not resort to rational argument or to philosophical apologetics but bases his assertion directly on God's own Word.
- Self-centered man rebels at such a notion, and even many Christians vainly try to explain away the clear truth that God is God and that, by definition, whatever He does can be nothing but just and righteousness. He needs no justification for anything He does—including calling some men to salvation and not calling others. He has always acted thus.
- Unconditionally, and completely apart from any consideration of human merit, God elects those who will become His heirs of promise.
- While the major theme of chapters 9–11 is God's dealing with His elect nation, the underlying theme, especially of chapter 9, is God's sovereignty in doing so. It demands more than a superficial understanding. And yet, when the deepest meaning and implications of this passage are carefully considered, especially its unambiguous declaration of God's absolute and unrestricted sovereign power, even the most devoted believer is left with some profound mysteries.

[\*MacArthur, John (1994-05-09). Romans 1-16 MacArthur New Testament Commentary Two Volume Set (Macarthur New Testament Commentary Series)]

## GOD'S INCONCEIVABLE Offer of Salvation!

- (1 Corinthians 2:6–9 NIV84) We do, however, speak a message of wisdom among the mature, but not the wisdom of this age or of the rulers of this age, who are coming to nothing. No, we speak of God's secret wisdom, a wisdom that has been hidden and that God destined for our glory before time began. **None of the rulers of this age understood it, for if they had, they would not have crucified the Lord of glory.** However, as it is written: "No eye has seen, no ear has heard, **no mind has conceived what God has prepared for those who love him.**"

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## Texts showing Paul's assessment of the Jews ...

- Then what advantage has the Jew (Romans 3:1–4)?
- What then? Are we Jews any better off (Romans 3:9–11)?
- No one is a Jew who is merely one outwardly (Romans 2:28–29).
- You who boast in the law dishonor God by breaking the law (Romans 2:17-24).



- (Jeremiah 23:36 NCV) But you will never again say, "The message of the LORD," **because the only message you speak is your own words. You have changed the words of our God, the living God, the LORD All-Powerful.**