

“His Word is Truth”

In Romans 11:32 the apostle Paul writes: “God has bound everyone over to disobedience so that he may have mercy on them all.” What does this mean?

First, Paul is teaching that ALL humans descended from Adam inherit his sinful nature (see Genesis 5:3, Romans 5:12, 1st Corinthians 15:21-22) and so not only do we face physical death as a consequence of being conceived as sinners (Romans 6:23a) but we are in bondage to unbelief and so we can only doubt God’s Word and disobey Him (see Genesis 8:21, Psalm 51:5, Romans 3:9-20, Romans 8:7-8, 1st Corinthians 2:14) unless the Holy Spirit gives us new hearts of repentance and faith in Christ (see Psalm 51:10, Ezekiel 36:26-27, John 3:5, 1st Corinthians 12:3, Ephesians 2:4-9).



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Second, Paul is teaching that God wants to have mercy on ALL people and that God’s Son died on the cross for ALL sinners in our place of judgment (see Genesis 12:3, Isaiah 53:4-12, Ezekiel 18:23, John 3:16, Galatians 3:7-29, 1st Timothy 2:3-4, 2nd Peter 3:9, 1st John 2:2).

But if God wants ALL people to be saved and God’s Son died for ALL people, then why do SOME end up spending eternity in hell? (See Psalm 1:5-6, Daniel 12:2, Matthew 25:41, 1st Corinthians 6:9-10, 2nd Thessalonians 1:9-10, 2nd Peter 3:7, Jude 5-7) God allows people to resist His Holy Spirit (see Isaiah 5:20, Zechariah 7:12, Matthew 23:37, Acts 7:51) – and the result is that people either reject God’s Word by affirming their sin (see Romans 1:18-32, Ephesians 4:17-19, 2nd Timothy 3:1-5, Jude 3-4) or by rejecting Christ and trusting in their own good deeds for salvation (see Romans 3:21-28, Romans 9:30-33, Galatians 3:10-11, Titus 3:5).

Therefore, if people end up spending eternity in hell they have no one to blame but themselves because they have rejected God’s attempts to save them by despising His Word, affirming their sin and rejecting His Son. But if we are saved and spend eternity with God we give Him all the glory because He is the One who sought us out and called us to repentance and faith in His Son.

God continues to call sinners to repentance and faith in His Son through the preaching of repentance and the forgiveness of sins in Jesus’ Name. (See Matthew 28:18-20, Luke 24:45-57, Acts 2:38-39, 1st Corinthians 1:18 - 2:13)

In fact, if you do not yet trust in Jesus as your Lord and Savior, God is using this article and the Scriptures referenced here to call you to repentance and faith in His Son. No matter who you are or what you’ve done, you can come to God in humble repentance through faith in His Son and be assured that your many sins are forgiven and that God will help you to turn from sin and live according to His loving will for your life as you look forward to the resurrection of the body and the life of the world to come. (See 2nd Corinthians 5:20 - 6:2, 1st Peter 1:3-12, 2nd Peter 3:8-18)