

Romans 11:29

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

For the gifts and calling of God are without repentance.

Analysis

For the gifts and calling of God are without repentance—ametamelēta gar ta charismata kai hē klēsis tou theou (ἀμεταμέλητα γὰρ τὰ χαρίσματα καὶ ἡ κλῆσις τοῦ θεοῦ). The word ametamelēta (ἀμεταμέλητα, "irrevocable") means God does not change His mind (meta-meleō, to regret or repent). The gifts (charismata, χαρίσματα) likely refer to the privileges listed in 9:4-5 (adoption, glory, covenants, law, temple service, promises, patriarchs, Messiah). The calling (klēsis, κλῆσις) refers to Israel's election as God's chosen people.

This verse is Paul's theological foundation for Israel's future salvation (vv. 26-27). God cannot revoke what He has given and promised to Israel. Even their unbelief does not nullify God's covenant faithfulness (3:3-4). This is the ultimate ground of assurance—not Israel's merit, but God's unchanging character. What God promises, He performs (Romans 4:21). Israel's gifts and calling remain, awaiting their fulfillment when the hardening ends.

Historical Context

This countered emerging Gentile supersessionism. If God could revoke His promises to Israel, what guarantee did Gentiles have? Paul affirms God's irrevocable commitment, securing both Israel's future and the church's confidence. God does not abandon His elect.

Related Passages

Romans 1:17 — The righteous shall live by faith

Hebrews 11:1 — Definition of faith

Colossians 1:16 — All things created through Christ

Psalm 19:1 — Heavens declare God's glory

Study Questions

1. How does God's irrevocable calling to Israel provide assurance for all believers regarding His faithfulness?
2. What specific 'gifts' has God given Israel that remain despite their unbelief?
3. How does this verse refute any theology suggesting God has permanently rejected Israel?

Interlinear Text

ἀμεταμέλητα	γὰρ	τὰ	χαρίσματα	καὶ	ἡ	κλῆσις	τοῦ
are without repentance	For	G3588	the gifts	and	G3588	calling	G3588
G278	G1063		G5486	G2532		G2821	
θεοῦ							
of God							
G2316							

Additional Cross-References

Hebrews 7:21 (Repentance): (For those priests were made without an oath; but this with an oath by him that said unto him, The Lord sware and will not repent, Thou art a priest for ever after the order of Melchisedec:)

Numbers 23:19 (Repentance): God is not a man, that he should lie; neither the son of man, that he should repent: hath he said, and shall he not do it? or hath he spoken, and shall he not make it good?

Malachi 3:6 (Parallel theme): For I am the LORD, I change not; therefore ye sons of Jacob are not consumed.

Romans 8:28 (References God): And we know that all things work together for good to them that love God, to them who are the called according to his purpose.

Hosea 13:14 (Repentance): I will ransom them from the power of the grave; I will redeem them from death: O death, I will be thy plagues; O grave, I will be thy destruction: repentance shall be hid from mine eyes.

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