

What, if anything, troubled you about what you studied?

One of the things that I both learned and was troubled by, is that Isaiah was called to preach a message in which the people's hearts were already hardened (not strange), but the message would push them farther away from God (strange). (p.128). How could the people get farther away when their hearts were already hardened in the first place? I wonder, would people today come to the church (to hear God's word), and then reject everything that they heard, and maybe perhaps be worse when they first arrived. Is it possible that Oswalt is speaking in terms of predestination? This fits in with, Ephesians 1:5, "*He predestined us for adoption through Jesus Christ, in accordance with his pleasure and will.*" I guess what I am trying to say is that when individuals are listening and hearing the word of God, it has already been determined by God who will harden their hearts, and who will not. The bottom line for all preachers is to preach the word of God. God will do what he has already planned to do from the foundation of the world.