

Romans Chapter 9

- Paul begins to describe that the Jews no longer corner the market on salvation, that they like the gentiles are sinners in need of a savior; and that salvation only comes through a personal relationship with Jesus.

Romans 3:23-24 “²³for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God, ²⁴being justified freely by His grace through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus.”

- Paul realizes that there might be some who would accuse him of hating the Jews, to many he was a traitor because his conversion and because of what he is saying or about to say, so he heads them off at the pass and freely declares that he is in fact saying what he is saying, loving them with the truth because of his sincere love for his brothers.
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V: 1 Paul attests to the truth of what he is about to say – “I want to communicate an important truth to you...”

- In my spirit, in the power of the Holy Spirit – I know this to be true.

Romans 8:16 “The Spirit Himself bears witness with our spirit that we are children of God.”

- This is the opposite of those who are spiritually discerned:

1 Corinthians 2:14 “But the natural man does not receive the things of the Spirit of God, for they are foolishness to him; nor can he know them, because they are spiritually discerned.”

Speaking of mature Christians:

Hebrews 5:14 “But solid food belongs to those who are of full age, that is, those who by reason of use have their senses exercised to discern both good and evil.”

V: 2 Speaking of the anguish of the soul that he has over his Jewish brethren for their salvation.

- Much the same as we cry out to God over our unsaved family and brethren.

Romans 10:1 “Brethren, my heart’s desire and prayer to God for Israel is that they may be saved.”

- There is no one who is beyond the reach of God:

Hebrews 7:25 “Therefore He is also able to save to the uttermost those who come to God through Him, since He always lives to make intercession for them.”

V: 3 Paul would be willing to be accursed and go to hell if that would save his brethren.

Moses felt the same way:

Exodus 32:32 “Yet now, if You will forgive their sin – but if not, I pray, blot me out of Your book which you have written.”

- That is exactly what Jesus did.

John 15:13 “Greater love has no man than this, that a man will lay down His life for His friends.”

- Speaking of his brethren from a cultural and ethnic standpoint – according to the flesh.
- Where did Paul get this heart of love for those who even though they were his countrymen, their desire was to kill him? - And yet he loved them. Prayer!

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V: 4 Israelites pertaining to: The **adoption**:

- **Adoption**: (G-5206) *huiiothesía*; receiving into the relationship of a child. In the NT, figuratively meaning adoption, sonship, spoken of the state of those whom God through Christ adopts as His sons and thus makes heirs of His covenanted salvation. See
- The Jews had been adopted by God as His own people, received into a covenant relationship.

Genesis 12:2-3 “I will make you a great nation; I will bless you and make your name great; and you shall be a blessing. I will bless those who bless you, and I will curse him who curses you; and in you all the families of the earth shall be blessed.”

- God directed His attention first to the Jews, then to the Gentiles - He made His promises to them, He favored them above all the people of the earth - then He turned to the Gentiles.

Romans 1:16 “For I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ, for it is the power of God to salvation for everyone who believes, for the Jew first and also for the Greek.”

- God watched over, cared for, and nurtured the children of Abraham as His very own. This eventually extended to the Gentiles.
- The **glory**: (G-1391). “doxa,” as very apparent, honor, praise, worship.
- The OT equivalent: the Shekinah glory of God, appeared to the nation of Israel, a Pillar of a Cloud by day and a Pillar of Fire by night. (Exodus 13:21-22).
- That same glory eventually filled the Holy of Holies in the tabernacle, and He dwelled with His people (Ex. 29:43).
- That same glory filled the Temple of Solomon.

1 Kings 8:10-11 “¹⁰And it came to pass, when the priests came out of the holy place, that the cloud filled the house of the Lord, ¹¹so that the priests could not continue ministering because of the cloud; for the glory of the Lord filled the house of the Lord.”

- The glory of God’s presence was their privilege.
- **Covenants**: God established covenants, agreements with the people of Israel.
- He would be their God through the giving of the Law, and they would be His people through their service to Him.

Exodus 19:5-6 “⁵Now therefore, if you will indeed obey My voice and keep My covenant, then you shall be a special treasure to Me above all people; for all the earth is Mine. ⁶And you shall be to Me a kingdom of priests and a holy nation...”

- The **giving of the Law**: The Jews, the nation of Israel – those governed by God were the ones to receive the Law, and the prophets, the revealing of God through His word; they were also the ones to whom the Law applied.
- The Gentiles didn’t and don’t have to worry about what is kosher, or the Sabbath’s and so on.
- But also that the Jews were the ones who were privileged to receive the Holy Oracles of God!
- The **service of God**: serving in the Tabernacle & Temple, the performance of all the ordinances of God. Intended to be a testimony and a witness of God.

- The **promises**: (G1860). “epaggelia,” pledge; a divine assurance.
- One sided, not dependent on the performance of man, only dependent on the performance of God Himself.

Genesis 15:1-21 God’s one sided covenant with Abraham concerning his descendants.

- God is still fulfilling His promises to the nation of Israel, they are all still valid today:

Ezekiel 34:13 “And I will bring them out from the peoples and gather them from the countries, and will bring them to their own land; I will feed them on the mountains of Israel, in the valleys and in all the inhabited places of the country.”

- May 14, 1948 – Israel became a nation once again – a modern miracle.

Ezekiel 36:24 “For I will take you from among the nations, gather you out of all countries, and bring you into your own land.”

Isaiah 27:6 “Those who come He shall cause to take root in Jacob; Israel shall blossom and bud, and fill the face of the world with fruit.”

- Today, Israel is the 3rd largest fruit exporter in the world, the bread basket of Europe.

V: 5 Describing ethnic Jews, from whom descended Jesus – the Messiah, God over all things, eternally the blessed God.

- In the Greek this verse reads literally:

“... *as concerning the flesh Christ came, who is God over all, eternally blessed.*” As in forever.

- This is not just a doxology, praise to God, and prayer, it is intended to affirm the deity of Jesus, that Jesus is God.
- This also affirms the Jewishness of Jesus. Anti-semites who claim to be “Christians” forget the fact that Jesus is Jewish.
- Jesus Christ was born to a Jewish mother, grew up in a Jewish home, went to a Jewish school, sat in a Jewish synagogue, ministered to the Jewish people, and would later say:

Matthew 15:24 “... I was not sent except to the lost sheep of the house of Israel.”

V: 6a It isn't as though God's Word has been ineffective with the Jews:

Isaiah 55:11 "So shall My word be that goes forth from My mouth, it shall not return to Me void, but it shall accomplish what I please, and it shall prosper in the thing for which I sent it."

- God reaped a harvest in that day among the Jews, it was primarily a Jewish church that got things started. He is still reaping a small harvest comparatively among the Jews today.

V: 6b As Paul was teaching, look at Israel today. Looking at the conditions that existed at that time, being under Roman rule.

- They still have all of God's promises, waiting for the fulfillment of them. God's word is still valid.
- How Jacob got his new name: 2nd born – birth right for soup, tricked blind father for the blessing.
- Fearing his brother he ran away to his uncle Laban, then upon his return, again feared his brother – praying hard, wrestled with God – new name.
- **Not everyone who is Jewish, is "Israel" or "governed by God."**
- Sadly not everyone who claims to be a Christian is "Israel" either.

V: 7 You're not saved or included by default just because you're Jewish, a physical descendant of Abraham.

- Abraham had a son by his hand maiden Hagar, a slave, a woman of bondage; his name was Ishmael.
- God didn't recognize this son because he was not the son of promise.
- Later God would tell Abraham take your son, your only son Isaac – and sacrifice him.
- Ishmael, a son of Abraham who became the father of the Arabs, didn't inherit the promises. So not all of the descendants of Abraham are God's chosen people.

Galatians 4:22-31 describes:

- Ishmael represents the work of the flesh – Abrahams attempt to help God.
- Isaac is the son of promise, God's work – the source of all blessing.

Galatians 3:28-29 "²⁸There is neither Jew nor Greek, there is neither slave nor free, there is neither male nor female; for you are all one in Christ Jesus. ²⁹And if you are Christ's, then you are Abraham's seed, and heirs according to the promise."

- A warning to the church today, and of all ages:

Galatians 3:3 “Are you so foolish? Having begun in the Spirit, are you now being made perfect by the flesh?”

V: 8-12 Just as God made a distinction between Isaac and Ishmael, He makes a similar distinction between Jacob and Esau.

- Jacob was accepted, and through him the promise of the Messiah was fulfilled.
- Esau was rejected, and the prophecies speak of his descendants being cut off as a nation. (**Genesis 36:9 and Obadiah 9-10**)
- The descendants of Esau, the Edomites were the continual enemies of the Jews – Herod the great was an Edomite.

V: 13 God knew even while they were each in the womb who would have a heart for Him, and who wouldn't.

It's was prophesied long before Paul uttered it:

Malachi 1:2-3 “²I have loved you”, says the Lord. Yet you say, in what way have You loved us? Was not Esau Jacob's brother? Says the Lord. “Yet Jacob I have loved; ³But Esau I have hated, and laid waste his mountains and his heritage for the jackals of the wilderness.”

- God knew before the two of them were born, that Esau would despise his birthright, his spiritual heritage, that it would mean less to him than a bowl of soup.
- God knew that Esau would not care for the things of the Lord, and that Jacob would.
- God didn't choose to bless Jacob because Jacob was worthy, but because God is sovereign.

V: 14 Applying our own logic and wisdom to this situation we might accuse God of being unfair.

- We simply don't have all the facts; only God does – and we need to accept that.

Isaiah 40:13 “Who has directed the Spirit of the Lord, or as His counselor has taught Him?”

Isaiah 55:8-9 “For My thoughts are not your thoughts, nor are your ways My ways, says the Lord. ⁹For as the heavens are higher than the earth, so are My ways higher than your ways, and My thoughts than your thoughts.”

- God always does what is right!

Psalm 145:17 “The Lord is righteous in all His ways, Gracious ^(holy) in all His works.”

- God bestows His love and grace upon whom He wills, He has the right to do so.
- I thank God He chose me!
- Some might say, “God hasn’t chosen me.”

Question: How do you know that you’re not chosen?

Answer “Because I’m not a Christian.”

Question: “Why don’t you accept Jesus?”

Answer: “I don’t want to.”

- People will find fault with God for supposedly not choosing them, when at the same time they refuse to choose Him.
- The only way to know that He has chosen us is to believe in Him, then we discover that He has chosen us from the beginning of time!
- *No one has ever called upon the name of the Lord and been told, “sorry, your name isn’t on the list.”*

John 3:16 “For God so loved the world....”

2 Peter 3:9 “The Lord.... is not willing that any should perish but that all should come to repentance.”

Matthew 11:28 “Come unto Me, all you who labor and are heavy laden...”

V: 15 When did He say that to Moses?

Exodus 33:19 “... I will be gracious to whom I will be gracious, and I will have compassion on whom I will have compassion.”

- Mercy, grace, forgiveness – all good things, but none of them is an inherent right.
- **God is sovereign**, and can justly do what He pleases.
- The whole world is deserving of hell.

Romans 3:10, 23. “As it is written, there is none righteous, no, not one;” – “For all have sinned and fallen short of the Glory of God.”

- If God chooses to be compassionate and merciful with any He would choose. He hasn't wronged anyone else – who still got what they deserved.
- Parable of the workers: **Matthew 20:1-16**
- The fact that He has shown mercy and kindness to me simply makes me all the more grateful to Him – to want to love Him and please Him!

V: 16 God's mercy is not the result of our will, nor of our work – but of His grace.

Ephesians 2:8-9 “For by grace you have been saved through faith, and that not of yourselves; it is the gift of God, ⁹not of works, lest anyone should boast.”

V: 17-19 How can God blame me for being what I am, since I'm only what He's made me?

- We all make a series of choices that eventually lead us to what we become.
- God simply confirms our choice at some point.
- **Exodus Ch's 7-14:** Pharaoh hardens his heart 6 times, later God “confirms” Pharaoh's heart 6 times. God confirmed the decision that Pharaoh made, but God didn't make the decision for him.

V: 20 Good question! Who are we to question God?

Referencing: (Sounds a little more harsh coming from Isaiah)

Isaiah 45:9 “Woe to him who strives with his Maker! Let the potsherd strive with the potsherds of the earth! Shall the clay say to him who forms it, “what are you making?” Or shall your handiwork say, “He has no hands?””

- A great many people ask that question of God without really thinking about it.

Hebrews 13:5 “Let your conduct be without covetousness; be content with such things as you have. For He Himself has said, I will never leave you nor forsake you.”

1 Timothy 6:6 “Now godliness with contentment is great gain.”

V: 21 God can do whatever He chooses. Here Paul uses the analogy of a potter, as he places a lump of clay on the wheel and it begins to spin, perhaps it's in the potter's mind to make a beautiful vase to contain a bouquet of flowers. Perhaps the next project will be a spittoon or a chamber pot; it's up to the potter to make what he chooses, the clay has no choice in the matter.

- The sovereignty of God can be a scary subject, especially if you don't know Him.
- But knowing Him, trusting Him – We know that His sovereignty works in our favor, because He is love and He only wants what is best for us!
- If we don't know Him we resist His will, question His will, we resist His touch in our lives; but knowing Him, knowing His love - we embrace His will in our lives, His tender touch, we yield to Him knowing that He loves us and will do what is best for us, that He would be glorified.

Psalm 46:10 “Be still, and know that I am God; I will be exalted among the nations, I will be exalted in the earth!”

V: 22 God allowed Pharaoh to resist Him, God allowed Pharaoh to be stubborn and hard hearted, cruel even to His own people – that in the end God could show Himself strong on behalf of His people.

- “My boy friend's back and you're gonna be in trouble...”

2 Chronicles 16:9 “For the eyes of the Lord run to and fro throughout the whole earth, to show Himself strong on behalf of those whose heart is loyal to Him...”

V: 23 God wants to lavish His love upon us.

Jeremiah 31:3 “The Lord has appeared of old to me, saying: “Yes, I have loved you with an everlasting love; therefore with lovingkindness I have drawn you.”

Colossians 1:27 “To them God willed to make known what are the riches of the glory of this mystery among the Gentiles: which is Christ in you, the hope of Glory.”

Ephesians 3:16-19 “¹⁶that He would grant you, according to the riches of His glory, to be strengthened with might through His spirit in the inner man, ¹⁷that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith; that you, being rooted and grounded in love, ¹⁸may be able to comprehend with all the saints what is the width and length and depth and height – ¹⁹to know the love of Christ which passes knowledge; that you may be filled with all the fullness of God.”

- At this point we've taken note of the sovereignty of God; and we're also seeing the responsibility of man, otherwise known as free choice. In order to avoid

mistakes, or heresy these two truths need to be kept in balance. In Chapter 10 we'll examine the second truth, the responsibility of man and his response to the call of God, we'll look at that more carefully.

V: 24 Just as God promised through the prophets, the Gentiles now equally share in His grace and mercy right along with the Jews.

Isaiah 42:6 "I, the Lord, have called You in righteousness, and will hold Your hand; I will keep You and give You as a covenant to the people, as a light to the Gentiles."

Isaiah 60:3 "The Gentiles shall come to your light, and kings to the brightness of your rising."

Hosea 2:23 "... and I will have mercy on her who had not obtained mercy; then I will say to those who were not My people, "you are My people!" And they shall say, "You are my God!"

V: 25-26 In Hosea God uses the prophet as a living example of God's marriage to Israel.

- God tells the prophet Hosea to go to the local brothel and to take one of the prostitutes for his wife.
- Hosea marries Gomer, who conceived and bore a son named Jezreel. Then she conceived again and had a daughter Lo-Ruhamah, then another son named Lo-ammi.
- Gomer had gone back to her old ways, she had been unfaithful and Lo-ammi means "not my child" – not mine.
- So in the place where God had said, not mine, not my child, shall the Lord say, they are mine! And that which was not loved, he would call beloved!

Hosea 1:10 "Yet the number of the children of Israel shall be as the sand of the sea, which cannot be measured or numbered. And it shall come to pass in the place where it was said to them, you are not my people, there it shall be said to them, "You are sons of the living God."

"^{26b} There they shall be called sons of the Living God."

V: 27-29 Though the children of Israel are like the sand of the sea, only a remnant shall be saved.

- Unless God had stopped things short, none would have survived.

V: 30-31 Paul is declaring that the Gentiles have achieved by faith what the Jews were unable to do through the Law, or the attempt to keep it.

Hebrews 11:6 “Without faith it is impossible to please Him...”

V: 32-33 If anyone thought they could trust in their Judaism for salvation, Paul was the guy.

Philippians 3:4-9 “⁴though I also might have confidence in the flesh. If anyone else thinks he may have confidence in the flesh, I more so: ⁵circumcised the eighth day, of the stock of Israel, of the tribe of Benjamin, a Hebrew of the Hebrews; concerning the law, a Pharisee; ⁶concerning zeal, persecuting the church; concerning the righteousness which is in the law, blameless. ⁷But what things were gain to me, these I have counted loss for Christ. ⁸Yet indeed I also count all things loss for the excellence of the knowledge of Christ Jesus my Lord, for whom I have suffered the loss of all things, and count them as rubbish, that I may gain Christ ⁹and be found in Him, not having my own righteousness, which is from the law, but that which is through faith in Christ, the righteousness which is from God by faith;”

- Jesus is that “stumbling stone.” The whole idea of righteousness by faith simply confounded the legalistic Jews.

1 Corinthians 1:23-24 “But we preach Christ crucified, to the Jews a stumbling block and to the Greeks foolishness, ²⁴But to those who are called, both Jews and Greeks, Christ the power of God and the wisdom of God.”

- They continued to seek righteousness by the Law, even after Jesus’ sacrifice on the cross.
- The bottom line is that no one has kept all of the law except Jesus.

James 2:10 “For whoever shall keep the whole law, and yet stumble in one point, he is guilty of all.”

Speaking of the Gentiles, Peter summed it up well:

Acts 15:8-10 “⁸So God, who knows the heart, acknowledged them by giving them the Holy Spirit, just as He did to us, ⁹and made no distinction between us and them, purifying their hearts by faith ¹⁰Now therefore, why do you test God by putting a yoke on the neck of the disciples which neither our fathers nor we were able to bear?”

Galatians 3:11 “But that no one is justified by the law in the sight of God is evident, for “the just shall live by faith.”

- Review: When considering the question - Is God unjust? This chapter has given us three answers.
1. Who are we to question God, He is sovereign.
 2. He is keeping His Word, these things were prophesied. If He didn't keep His word then He would be unjust, but He's not because these prophesies are fulfilled, He keeps His Word.
 3. Man's responsibility, which is what this chapter ends with, and will continue into chapter 10.
- The main thrust of this chapter is that: Israel's rejection of Christ does not deny the faithfulness of God. Romans 9 does not negate Romans 8.
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 - God is still faithful, righteous, just, and gracious, and He can be depended on to accomplish His purposes and keep His promises.