

## **THIS WEEK'S STUDY: 10/10-11/2022 *Romans Chapter 9!***

**PLEASE NOTE WE WILL CONTINUE TO NEED A PASSCODE TO JOIN THE STUDY!**

**MONDAY 7 PM Bible Study - Time: 07:00 PM Pacific Time (US and Canada)**

**THE MONDAY NIGHT STUDY HAS RESUMED MEETING IN CLASSROOM HS107, CCCM, AS WELL AS CONTINUING IN ZOOM!!**

**MEETING ID# - 87858644763 Passcode: 087484**

Join Zoom Meeting -

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**Meeting ID: 878 5864 4763 - Passcode: 087484**

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**TUESDAY 7 AM Bible Study - Time: 07:00 AM Pacific Time (US and Canada).**

**THE TUESDAY MORNING STUDY HAS RESUMED MEETING IN THE FAMILY ROOM, CCCM, AS WELL AS CONTINUING IN ZOOM!!**

**MEETING ID# - 85309150746 - Passcode: 715340**

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### **OPENING PRAYER**

**Theme of the Book of Romans: "Righteousness by Faith" – 1:16-17**

***Romans Chapter 9 – Israel Defined and Identified – For they are not all Israel who are of Israel!***

**Israel's Rejection of Christ - vs. 1-5; Israel's Rejection and God's Purpose - vs. 6-13; Israel's Rejection and God's Justice - vs. 13-29; Present Condition of Israel - vs. 30-33.**

**Review from last time:**

***(Rom 8:38-39) For I am persuaded that neither death nor life, nor angels nor principalities nor powers, nor things present nor things to come, [39] nor height nor depth, nor any other created thing, shall be able to separate us from the love of God which is in Christ Jesus our Lord.***

### *God's Sovereign Choice*

**Rom 9:1** *I tell the truth in Christ, I am not lying, my conscience also bearing me witness in the Holy Spirit,*

- ***I tell the truth in Christ.*** This is not swearing an oath, Paul is anxious that the Jews should realize that he is making a profoundly serious and solemn statement, saying in effect, I speak these words realizing that I am in the presence of Christ, as a Christian, a member of the body of Christ, understanding, as a believer, His position in Christ.
- ***I am not lying!*** Then to make it stronger still, he introduces his negative, *I am not lying!* He is very anxious that everybody would know that he is speaking this in the most serious and solemn manner conceivable.
- ***My conscience also bearing me witness in the Holy Spirit.*** Paul goes even beyond that, saying my conscience is bearing witness with me, even enlightening my consciousness in the Holy Spirit.

**Rom 9:2** *that I have great sorrow and continual grief in my heart.*

**Rom 9:3** *For I could wish that I myself were accursed from Christ for my brethren, my countrymen according to the flesh,*

**Rom 9:4** *who are Israelites, to whom pertain the adoption, the glory, the covenants, the giving of the law, the service of God, and the promises;*

- **Paul is saying, I have great bitter grief** and continual, incessant anguish or sorrow in my heart for whom? For my fellow Jews, my countrymen (relatives) according to the flesh!
- ***For I could wish that I myself were accursed from Christ.*** Paul uses the word “*anathema*,” which means cursed by God! It would seem impossible for him to use such a term in the aorist tense which would void his salvation, especially knowing the absolute security we have in our salvation. However, the tense used here is **an imperfect tense**, meaning he was wishing, if had it been possible. He does not say, “I do wish,” but “I could wish!” He says the act is unfinished. He starts a process, but an obstacle intervenes, and he cannot complete it. The wish was in my mind, yes, but that does not mean to say that he wished it, implying the presence of a condition which is known to be impossible! We have here an extraordinarily strong expression of Paul’s feelings. He does not actually wish to be accursed from Christ, but he does say in effect that he is so concerned about this that if somehow or other by being sacrificed myself, it would help them, but I cannot go on with that. The wish, the thought entered my mind. I was on the point of saying..., but then he stops!
- **What can we learn from Paul’s extraordinary statement?** First, we see the great division that Christianity has caused within the Jews, separating them, no longer understanding one another. They see that the believer has gotten hold of something that means everything to him, of which they know nothing about. Like our Lord said in (*Mat 10:37*) *He who loves father or mother more than Me is not worthy of Me. And he who loves son or daughter more than Me is not worthy of Me.*
- **These three verses above everything else show the Apostle’s deep concern for his countrymen in the flesh!** He has not finished with them, but rather, he has this great and deep concern for them!
- **This is the question we need to ask ourselves. Do we have something of this same grief, this concern** for those members of our own family or of our own nation that are not Christians? Do we know this? If we do not have it, then we have failed somehow to realize the truth about salvation itself. Are you burdened about the lost? The lost in your own family? Does it grieve you? Is it a continual sorrow in your heart?
- **Consider the way in which Paul handles these countrymen in the flesh.** The gospel has come. It has divided him from them, and it has put him into a new relationship. We do well, to see how important for us to react to members of our family, friends, and fellow countrymen, who are not yet believers. Paul does not dismiss them, denounce them, or attack them. He is not even irritated by them. How can he behave like this? It is not easy, is it?
- **We need to realize (1Co 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.*** We see that the unbeliever cannot see it. So, there is no need of bringing pressure to bear upon him. He needs the enlightenment that the Holy Spirit alone can give, just as we needed it!

- **What can we do? We can pray**, knowing that prayer for the lost is always in the will of God! How fervently am I praying for them? Is prayer for the lost a high priority of mine?
- **Who are Israelites, to whom pertain the adoption, the glory, the covenants, the giving of the law, the service of God, and the promises; These are the people that God said you will be my sons and daughters** and I will be your God. They were known as the children of Israel. God's children. God had adopted them. God promised Abraham that through your descendants, the nations of the world will be blessed. God had chosen Abraham to be the father of the Jewish people that they might bring the Messiah into the world.
- **But not only adoption but the glory**, They were led by God out of Egypt. The presence of God, the glory, the Shekinah glory, was present with them in their wilderness journey. The presence of God was with them. God has shown to these people something of Himself and of His own *glorious* nature, but now we Gentiles too.
- **The covenants, the giving of the law**, emphasizing the *giving* and the way of giving (*Dt. 4:32-36*), not the possession of the law, not custodians of the law, but to keep the law! **God gave to them the covenant** when God established the law. He said, now if you will keep the statutes and the commandments, the ordinances, then I will be your God and you will be My people. God made this covenant. *Covenants* -same covenant with special application to different men and times, Abraham, Isaac, Jacob, Moses, David
- **The giving of the law**, God chose Israel, pledging Himself to her in this sense, that she was to be the nation which He was going to use as a channel to bring His great salvation to the human race.
- **The service of God**. That is the way by which He could be approached. He established for them their approaching God through the sacrifices. Thus, the service in the Tabernacle, the offering of the sacrifices. The bringing of the incense and all of these services within the worship system whereby these people could come and be forgiven of their sins, drawing closer to God.
- **And the promises**; Referring to the particular blessings which are going to result from this great plan and scheme of salvation, the blessings, and the glories of the age of the Messiah, which will be given to all who belong to the Messiah and to His reign!

***Rom 9:5 of whom are the fathers and from whom, according to the flesh, Christ came, who is over all, the eternally blessed God Amen.***

- **Paul is saying here that the supreme privilege** that was given to the nation of Israel was that out of them according to the flesh came the One, who is God over all, blessed forever, the Messiah, the Lord Jesus Christ!

***Rom 9:6 But it is not that the word of God has taken no effect. For they are not all Israel who are of Israel,***

- **Look at Israel today. Look at the conditions**, Paul is saying. They were under the Roman rule. Here they had all of the covenants and promises that God made. But it was not as though God's word did not have any effect.
- **For they are not all Israel who are of Israel**. The promises of God have never failed with regard to the true Israel, and they never will. *But it is not that the word of God has taken no effect. For they are not all Israel who are of Israel*, God's promises were never meant to apply to the generality who are merely of Israel. They were meant for this peculiar, believing, group only, and they never will fail!

***Rom 9:7 nor are they all children because they are the seed (descendants after the flesh) of Abraham; but, "IN ISAAC YOUR SEED SHALL BE CALLED***

- **They have not all been adopted into God's family**. All of the descendants of Abraham are not accounted in God's covenants and promises. Abraham had another son, Ishmael, from which came the Arab people. The promises were not to them.
- **But "In Isaac your seed** (spiritual, conventual sense, Isaac alone) **shall be called."** The Lord said, produced through Isaac, not through Ishmael, being God's choice, against Abraham's will, your seed shall be called, the blessing come. (*Gen 21:12*) *But God said to Abraham, "Do not let it be displeasing in your sight because of the lad or because of your bondwoman. Whatever Sarah has said to you, listen to her voice; for in Isaac your seed shall be called.* Isaac only, is the seed in the special sense!

**Rom 9:8** *That is (means), those who are the children of the flesh, these are not the children of God; but the children of the promise (this alone, makes us children of God) are counted (simply counted, not called into being) as the (true) seed.*

- **If it were just Abraham's descendants, then it would include Esau and his descendants,** the Edomites. But again, through Jacob, so the fathers, Abraham, Isaac, Jacob, the promise came down through them. Of course, then Jacob's twelve sons, the twelve tribes of Israel, and these are the people through whom the promises will be fulfilled, the Messiah shall come! It is not just the result of natural descent, not applying to all Abraham's natural descendants, otherwise Ishmael would be included, but he is not!

**Rom 9:9** *For this is the word of promise: "AT THIS TIME I WILL COME AND SARAH SHALL HAVE A SON."*

- *For this is the word of promise: "AT THIS TIME, the time of life, after the period of gestation, nine months, I WILL COME, a miracle because God has acted! AND SARAH SHALL HAVE A SON."* It is not through Hagar, but through Sarah!
- **It is God who produced Isaac in order that His promise might be carried out! It is a miracle!** The ordinary process was used, but that could do nothing. Here we see the choice of Isaac was made by God, even before Isaac was conceived! (*Gen 21:1-2*) It is God who makes it do something! Abraham is the son of promise. (*Gal 4:22-23, 29*) He is more than just the son of Abraham! He is the child of God, not merely the product of Abraham and Sarah! Isaac is alive because he has been elected, not elected after he arrives! Isaac was born after the Spirit and not only after the flesh. The thing that makes him what he is, the seed, is that he was born of the Spirit as well, which is something we should hold on to! Spiritual birth is always of God! The children of promise! Produced by the promise, born of the promise, not of the flesh! These, and these alone, are the seed!

**Rom 9:10** *And not only this, but when Rebecca also had conceived by one man, even by our father Isaac*

- **Here is exactly the same thing as with Sarah.** (*Gen 25:21*) *Now Isaac pleaded with the LORD for his wife, because she was barren; and the LORD granted his plea, and Rebekah his wife conceived.* The conceiving was the result of the Lord being pleaded and acting by way of reply to the prayer that was offered to Him. We can say again about their birth, is as the result of the intervention of God!
- **Conceived by one man, even by our father Isaac.** Emphasizing the word 'one,' because of the people's objection that there were two mothers in the first case. Here there is one father and one mother also.

**Rom 9:11** *(for the children not yet being born, nor having done any good or evil, that the purpose of God according to election might stand, not of works but of Him who calls),*

- **That the purpose of God according to election might stand.** This purpose of God is worked out through election entirely as the result of the completely independent action and the activity of God Himself! It is not anything in us, our birth, our nationality, our good works, or anything else whatsoever. It was God who produced Isaac. It was God who produced both Jacob and Esau. But then having produced the two, He had already selected the one even before either was born, so the purpose of God is carried out in the case of Jacob, as well!
- **It is God's free choice. It is an absolute and sovereign choice.** That God should act in this way and choose and produce His own people, is the only way in which His purpose could surely and infallibly be carried out and stand!
- **It is God's way of salvation is to produce a new race.** It is not a selection out of the old race, it is not just a question of some of Adam's race being forgiven and other not; it is the production of a new humanity in Christ!
- **We must always think of salvation, God's way of salvation, as a positive process.** It is a new people, a spiritual people, produced by a spiritual birth. We can go further. These people are brought into the world and are born and prepared for that end and objective. We have established that in the case of Isaac.

- **God does not do away with the natural.** He uses it, intervening in it in a supernatural manner. We are all born, in a natural sense as the children of Adam. As Ishmael and Isaac were the natural children of Isaac, so we are all the natural children of Adam. But the teaching is that nevertheless, as Christians, we are all of us separated from our mother's womb in a spiritual sense.
- **With regard to the time process, we must learn to look at it from eternity** in the purpose and the plan of God. So, we will see how it works itself out. (*Eph 1:3-5*)
- **Salvation, according to Paul, must be viewed positively.** God has to produce a new humanity. He does it through the old humanity coming down from father to son, as He does with Isaac and Jacob, but the vital thing is the new humanity, the new production! There is no cause for complaint. No one has a right to say anything. All humanity in Adam is condemned, and deserves to be, as Ishmael and Esau were. Such people do not desire God. They are not interested in Him and are God-haters. There is no complaint. It is not an arbitrary selection. It is God producing something quite new!

***Rom 9:12 it was said to her, "THE OLDER SHALL SERVE THE YOUNGER."***

- **Another wonderful point here is that they happened to be twins**, being in their mother's womb at the same time! Nevertheless, Esau was born first, but we shall see that the second born will be the one through whom the seed is to be perpetuated. (*Gen 25:23b And the older shall serve the younger.*) We must not lose sight of this fact, that God said that to Rebecca before the children were born.
- **This is that God's purposes might stand by Divine election.** Not by works or by rewards of works. The children had not done any evil or good. But that God's purposes might stand by divine election. God said to Rebecca, the older shall serve the younger.
- **One of the problems of our challenging God and often faulting God**, is that we do not take into consideration that God is God! As God, He is omniscient. He has precognition. He has foreknowledge. So, before they are ever born, God knows their life.

***Rom 9:13 As it is written, "JACOB I HAVE LOVED, BUT ESAU I HAVE HATED."***

- **Then he goes on a step further.** But now Malachi did not say this before they were born, but God could have said it then. But *As it is written, (Malachi 1:2-3), Jacob I have loved, but Esau I have hated.*" God does not so much hate a person as hate the sinful condition of the person, the sinful attitude of the person and all that that is going to lead to. So, there is a rejection as well as a selection. God hates evil! God hates sin!
- **Election is only a part of this. It is the way in which God carries out His purpose.** But the important thing to look at always is the purpose of God, which is brought to pass infallibly, absolutely, certainly, in this way and in spite of what is so true of every one of us! That God's purpose might stand!

***Rom 9:14 What shall we say then? Is there unrighteousness with God? Certainly not!***

- **Is God not fair? Is there unrighteousness?** It appears to be unrighteous on God's part to give mercy to some and not to others. It also seems to be unrighteous on the part of God that to hate and to condemn some even before they are born. The Apostle takes up both objections. He deals with the first in verses fifteen and sixteen, showing there is no unrighteousness in God loving Jacob and showing mercy to whom He will show mercy. The second, in verses seventeen and eighteen.
- **Paul answers his own question, *Certainly not!*** God forbid! Or perish the thought!

***Rom 9:15 For He says to Moses, "I WILL HAVE MERCY ON WHOMEVER I WILL HAVE MERCY, AND I WILL HAVE COMPASSION ON WHOMEVER I WILL HAVE COMPASSION."***

***Rom 9:16 So then it is not of him who wills, nor of him who runs, but of God who shows mercy.***

- **So then it is, the participation in the mercy or salvation of God, is not of him who wills, nor of him who runs.** Salvation does **not depend at all**, upon a person's works or activities, **but of God who shows mercy.** It is *of Him who calls.* It is entirely, utterly, absolutely, altogether from God! It is God's will! It is God's choice! It is entirely of God!
- **Paul quotes from Exodus 33, arguing, that you cannot say that this is unrighteous**, because it is not Paul saying this. It is God Himself who has told us in what He said to Moses on that occasion, that He does this

very thing. What God says is always final! What God says is always just! It is always righteous. When God says deliberately, explicitly, and specifically that He does a certain thing, in a certain way, that ends all argument! Do you believe that the whole Bible is inerrant? Do you ever pick and choose which verses you think are absolutely accurate?

- **This scripture is a direct condemnation of the view, called universalism,** which teaches that because God is love, eventually all of the human race, every single one, will be saved. However, the Bible, in the Old and New Testaments, clearly divide mankind into the saved and the lost, those who are going to be with God, in heaven, and those who are going to outer darkness, being shut out from His presence eternally.
- **When God said this, Moses had come down from the mountain with the ten commandments, finding** the people having a great party, dancing nude around this golden calf. He was appalled! He took the two tables of stone upon which God had written the ten commandments. He threw them on the ground and broke them, signifying the broken commandments. God said to Moses, stand back I am going to wipe them out. Moses said, oh no!
- **He went up the mountain and he began to plead with God for the people.** God said, I will raise up another nation and you can lead them, but Moses was pleading. It was at that place where he said, oh God, forgive and if not then, blot, I pray, my name out of Your book of remembrances. Now at that point God said, I will have mercy upon whom I will have mercy! They had broken the commandment. God, according to the commandments, should have wiped them out because of what they had done.
- **God just retreated into His sovereignty and said, well, I am God, and I will have mercy** on whom I will have mercy. Otherwise, He would have to wipe them out. The sovereignty of God in the showing of His mercy. He did that so He would not have to wipe them out. I am glad for that because He has had mercy on us! He says, well, I can have mercy on whom I will have mercy.
- **Mercy is something that you do not deserve. It is not a divine right.** It is a favor of God! By His loving favor, He has compassion! He has mercy on me! There is no unrighteousness with God. He can have mercy upon whom He pleases! Because He is God! He is sovereign!

***Rom 9:17 For the Scripture says to the Pharaoh, "FOR THIS VERY PURPOSE I HAVE RAISED YOU UP (caused you to stand), THAT I MAY SHOW MY POWER IN YOU, AND THAT MY NAME MAY BE DECLARED IN ALL THE EARTH."***

***Rom 9:18 Therefore He has mercy on whom He wills, and whom He wills He hardens.***

- **God said to Pharaoh, look, I have raised you up for this purpose,** that I might demonstrate My power that My name might be declared to the earth. We read that when Moses came to Pharaoh, saying, the Lord has said, Let My people go. Pharaoh said, who is the Lord that I should obey Him? So, the plagues began. In these plagues, God was striking out against the gods of the Egyptians. Destroying them, making them loathsome and detestable. We read that Pharaoh hardened his heart against the Lord. So, another plague. Pharaoh hardened his heart against the Lord. So, another plague.
- **We do not see God's purpose yet, but He allows this hardening to take place** until everything is absolutely hopeless. Then He comes in, in the power of His might. Why does He do it this way? If He did it in another way, then we would be ready to say that we had done it. But God allows everything to become so hard that it is obvious to all, that nobody could do it but He Himself. God produced Pharaoh at that point and hardened his heart, in order that His great power might be shown through him!

***Rom 9:19 You will say to me then, "Why does He still find fault? For who has resisted His will?"***

- **In other words, here I am, if I am a mortal human being and God has hardened my heart,** then how can God really find fault with me for having a hard heart? How can God judge me for having a hard heart if God has hardened my heart?

***Rom 9:20 But indeed, O man, who are you to reply against God? Will the thing formed say to him who formed it, "Why have you made me like this?"***

- **Will the thing formed say to him who formed it - plasma – plastic,** the thing formed; God is the One who handles and forms and models it. *"Why have you made me like this?"* God can do what He pleases because He

is God! I am just something that has been formed and I can't really say to God, why have You made me like this? God can do with me whatever He pleases!

**Rom 9:21 Does not the potter have power (authority, right) over the clay, from the same lump to make one vessel for honor and another for dishonor?**

- **Now this is an illustration which shows to us the awesome sovereignty of God over man.** God is likened to the potter and man is likened to the clay. The potter has absolute power over the clay to make of the clay whatever He pleases. The thing that is formed really has no right to say to the one who has formed it, why did you make me like this? This picture of God as the potter and man as the clay is used by Isaiah in chapter forty-five.
- **It is used by Jeremiah where the Lord told Jeremiah to go down to the potter's house.** Watch him as he works on his wheel. I will speak to you there. Jeremiah went down. He watched the potter as he was forming the vessel on the wheel. The vessel was marred in the hands of the potter. He stopped and he started over again. He made another vessel that pleased him. The word of the Lord came to Jeremiah and said is not Israel like clay in My hands? Though the vessel has been marred I will make of it a vessel that pleases Me.
- **Paul does not say here that God has created some people to honor and some to dishonor.** He is not talking about creation, saying that God Almighty created some people in order that they might sin and go to damnation. The very terms that are used compel us not to say that! They are perfectly clear, as we have been shown in using the term '*plasma*, plastic material,' not the thing created! Here he is talking about a lump of clay, not about creation, but about something that is done with the material that has already been created. The potter does not create the clay. He starts with it. It is there in front of him on the bench. He is now going to do something with it. He is dealing with God's relationship to fallen humanity. He is concerned here only about salvation, not about creation, and he shows that fallen humanity is like a lump clay, which is already there and what God does with the lump.
- **This is the key to the whole explanation of this statement** that has mystified so many people that God deliberately made some people that they might go to hell. That is a lie! It is not taught anywhere in the Scripture. What we see here is what God does with fallen men and women, which is true of all humanity. The lump of clay in is 'fallen humanity,' as the result of Adams' original sin. It is the same with Jacob and Esau, one formed to salvation, Jacob; the other, Esau, to damnation.
- **If people are saved, it is entirely of the mercy of God;** if they are damned, it is their own responsibility That is what the Apostle is teaching here!
- **But He also has given to us the capacity of choice. I can yield to God in faith, trusting God** to do what is right. Make of me what is right in His sight. But I can harden myself to God. That is what God has allowed me to do. Many people have hardened themselves to God. As a result, their lives have become marred. You are not what God would have you to be. The beauty that God is seeking to develop is not there. But God in His love, rather than just taking the clay and throwing it out. He works the clay, to work out the stiffness, the hardness in order that He might shape the vessel that pleases Him.
- **But when you really know God, you know that He is love personified! God is love!** He is not willing that any should perish, but that all should come to repentance! He said I have no pleasure in the death of the wicked. So, turn! Why will you die, says the Lord? God said, I know my thoughts concerning you. They are not evil. They are good! I have glorious plans for your future. When I know that the potter loves me, I know that what He has in mind for me is the best that could ever happen to me! I find then it is easy to yield although I do not always understand the pressures that He puts on me in order to shape me a certain way.

**Rom 9:22 What if God, wanting to show His wrath and to make His power (dunatos – dynamic, physical force) known, endured with much longsuffering the vessels of wrath prepared for destruction,**

- **The first time that Pharaoh defied God, God did not wipe him out.** He put up with him. He allowed him to defy God. He was very patient. He endured with much longsuffering this vessel that was to be destroyed, but He wanted to show to the world, His wrath against rebellion and His power to bring down the highest and the strongest, who tried to stand against Him. So, He put up with Pharaoh for a long time before He brought the destruction that was already determined and deserved.

**Rom 9:23 and that He might make known the riches of His glory on the vessels of mercy, which He had prepared beforehand for glory,**

- **Oh! If we only knew the riches of His glory!** Paul prayed for the Ephesians, that you might know the exceeding riches of the inheritance of the saints in light. If you only knew the hope of your calling! What God has for you who love Him.
- **That He might make known the riches of His glory on the vessels of mercy, which He had prepared beforehand for glory.** I love that! God has already planned for me to be with Him! He has the reception all planned for my arrival! The glory of His kingdom *which He had prepared beforehand for glory.* This subject of God choosing and God knowing in advance, according to His foreknowledge, predestinating, bothers a lot of people. They say that is not fair. That is not right, you know. Well, it thrills me! Because God chose me. I am blessed by it! I am thrilled by it!
- **God does not exclude men. He desires that all should be saved!** He opens the doors to all people. The door is opened to you tonight. If you want to come in, you will discover that God has chosen you. Then you will like this doctrine, too! Oh, bless the Lord. He has chosen me! Yes, I have entered in. The very fact that I have entered in, shows that I was chosen of God. He says, look, I loved you before the foundation of the earth and I have chosen you and ordained that you should be My disciple. On the outside of the door it says, "Whoever will, may come." You see that and you say, wow, looks good! I will enter. When you get inside of the gate and you look back, it says, "You have not chosen me, but I have chosen you and ordained that you should be My disciples! That you should bring forth fruit!"
- **One of those great mysteries that we do not fully comprehend but you should enjoy it.** God has chosen us in Christ before the foundation of the world! It is wonderful to know that God loved you and chose you!

**Rom 9:24 even us whom He called, not of the Jews only, but also of the Gentiles?**

- **The accusation of Paul is that he hated the Jews.** You love the Gentiles. You know, you are a traitor to the Jewish cause and so forth. But Paul is saying, look, this is not just true of the Jews. It is also true of the Gentiles! God has chosen to show mercy upon the Gentiles. God has chosen that He might extend the riches of His grace and His love. The riches of His glory to the Gentiles also!
- **Notice how much Paul has already in this chapter, quoted from the Old Testament.** Quoting from Deuteronomy, from Genesis, from Malachi and all. Now he turns to the Scriptures again, now to the prophet Hosea. We can see how important the Old Testament is in understanding the New!

**Rom 9:25 As He says also in Hosea: "I WILL CALL THEM MY PEOPLE, WHO WERE NOT MY PEOPLE, AND HER BELOVED, WHO WAS NOT BELOVED."**

**Rom 9:26 "AND IT SHALL COME TO PASS IN THE PLACE WHERE IT WAS SAID TO THEM, 'YOU ARE NOT MY PEOPLE,' THERE THEY SHALL BE CALLED SONS OF THE LIVING GOD."**

- **In Hosea, God was using the prophet to be a living illustration** of God's marriage to Israel. God told Hosea to go down to the house of prostitution and marry one of the gals, which he did. She had a son and called his name Jezreel. God said He was going to take vengeance upon the house of Jehu because of what the house of Jehu had done to the house of Jezreel. Then he had a daughter, Lo-ruhamah. He had another son that he called, Lo-ammi, but his wife had gone back to her old practices and so Lo-ammi means, not my child. Not of mine. So, in the place where God had said, not mine, not my child, shall the Lord say, they are Mine. To that which was not loved, He would call her the beloved.
- **God would come back and minister to these people. His people.** He is not going to forsake them. God will keep His covenant with Israel.

**Rom 9:27 Isaiah also cries out concerning Israel: "THOUGH THE NUMBER OF THE CHILDREN OF ISRAEL BE AS THE SAND OF THE SEA, THE REMNANT WILL BE SAVED.**

**Rom 9:28 FOR HE WILL FINISH THE WORK AND CUT IT SHORT IN RIGHTEOUSNESS, BECAUSE THE LORD WILL MAKE A SHORT WORK UPON THE EARTH."**

- **Isaiah also cries out, not all of Israel are going to be saved.** Not all of the descendants of Abraham are going to be saved. Not all who are of Israel are Israel. For Israel is a spiritual sea. We saw that with Ishmael and with Isaac. Isaac was the spiritual sea. The spiritual Israel are children of Abraham by faith, who have put their faith and trust in God. They are the true Israel of God.
- **God is going to deal with the nation, but not all the nation will be saved.** During the Great Tribulation period, only one third will survive it. There will be the remnant but not the whole, who will be saved. Isaiah spoke of that remnant. Only a *remnant will be saved*.
- **Now he is talking about this future when God is going to deal with the nation of Israel again.** It will be just a short time, just seven years. There is going to be a time of the Great Tribulation upon the earth as weapons of destruction are unleashed upon humanity. Jesus said except those days be shortened, no flesh would remain on the earth. For the elect, the Jews' sake, these days shall be shortened. God said, I am going to do a short work with them. *Finish the work and cut it short in righteousness.*

**Rom 9:29 And as Isaiah said before: "UNLESS THE LORD OF SABAOTH HAD LEFT US A SEED, WE WOULD HAVE BECOME LIKE SODOM, AND WE WOULD HAVE BEEN MADE LIKE GOMORRAH."**

- **We would have been totally wiped out!** Unless God had left this remnant, this seed.

### *Israel's Unbelief*

**Rom 9:30 What shall we say then? That Gentiles, who did not pursue righteousness, have attained to righteousness, even the righteousness of faith;**

- **What shall we say?** You Gentiles who have come to believe in Jesus Christ have attained to the righteousness. For God has imputed righteousness to you through faith in Jesus Christ even as Abraham believed God and God imputed it for righteousness. You who have believed in Jesus Christ, God looks at you and accounts you righteous because of your faith in Jesus Christ! Right now, you believers have a righteous standing before God, even though we have sinned. In Christ, God sees you as righteous! Through your faith in Christ, you have that righteous standing before God.

**Rom 9:31 but Israel, pursuing the law of righteousness, has not attained to the law of righteousness.**

- **That is, they have not lived up to the law.** Now the law is righteous. It tells you what God would have you to be and how God would have you to act towards Him and towards your neighbor. The Jews who sought to live after the law did not attain to the righteousness of the law!

**Rom 9:32 Why? Because they did not seek it by faith, but as it were, by the works of the law. For they stumbled at that stumbling stone.**

- **Why? Jesus is the stumbling stone.** They stumbled over Jesus. They still do today. That is why the Jews were outside Because they stumbled at this Person. He determines everything! Nothing else finally matters! The Lord Jesus Christ is the acid test of the value of any supposed belief in God!
- **Today, even the most devout Jews, who you see bobbing at the Wailing Wall,** going through their prayers, are not really living according to the law. They do not have sacrifices. The Bible says without the shedding of blood there is no remission of sin.
- **But we have the shed blood of Jesus Christ by which we enter boldly** into the presence of God, into the Holy of Holies! Through the blood of Jesus Christ, the sacrifice once and for all!

**Rom 9:33 As it is written by Isaiah: "BEHOLD, I LAY IN ZION A STUMBLING STONE AND ROCK OF OFFENSE, AND WHOEVER BELIEVES ON HIM WILL NOT BE PUT TO SHAME."**

- **Chapters** nine through eleven, talk about the Jew and the Gentile relationship to God and the sovereignty of God, in this position that we have as Gentiles, through faith, but a warning to us as he gets to the close of this section in chapter eleven, of not boasting against the natural branches. A fascinating portion of Scripture, as

we deal with issues that pertain to the infinite, Eternal God, and issues that we cannot reconcile, but we have to accept by faith that God has opened the door wide for all men to come.

- **Right now, you can come and receive the forgiveness for your sin!** You can receive Jesus Christ as your Savior. You can attain the righteousness of God through faith and be accounted as righteous by God! You can enter into the family of God and the kingdom of God! God will have mercy upon you! He will begin to make of your life, a vessel of honor for His glory!
- **Or you can harden your heart to the gospel of Jesus Christ.** You can live after the flesh. You can be a vessel of dishonor, fit for destruction. Now demonstrating to God that I cannot change. God knows the end result of all of our lives, but that does not preclude your coming. If you come, Jesus said whoever comes to Me, I will in no wise, cast out! He has never closed the door to anyone! Yet, He has chosen the ones that should come. God did not require that I reconcile the truth, only to believe the truth!
- **Where do you stand?**

### SUMMARY:

- **Vs. 1-5 – Israel’s Rejection of Christ.** Paul shows such great concern and love for his unbelieving countrymen! What is my concern over the lost?
- **Vs. 6-13 - Israel’s Rejection and God’s Purpose.** But all Israel is not Israel! God’s purposes will stand!
- **Vs. 13-29 - Israel’s Rejection and God’s Justice.** We see the importance of the Old Testament in understanding the New. We see there is no unrighteousness with God in forming whom He chooses, but that His purposes might stand! A new humanity is being formed!
- **Vs. 30-33 - Present Condition of Israel.** Gentiles have attained righteousness through faith, whereas Israel, seeking righteousness through the law have failed, stumbling over Jesus Christ!
- **Thank You, Lord, for Your amazing grace! (Eph 2:7) that in the ages to come He might show *the exceeding riches of His grace in His kindness toward us in Christ Jesus.***

### **THIS IS AMAZING GRACE** (4:35/4:40) Phil Wickham

*Who breaks the power of sin and darkness? Whose love is mighty and so much stronger?  
The King of glory, the King above all kings Who shakes the whole earth with holy thunder?  
And leaves us breathless in awe and wonder? The King of glory, the King above all kings  
This is amazing grace This is unfailing love That You would take my place That You would bear my cross  
You laid down Your life That I would be set free Oh, Jesus, I sing for All that You've done for me  
Who brings our chaos back into order? Who makes the orphans a son and daughter?  
The King of glory, the King of glory Who rules the nations with truth and justice  
Shines like the sun in all of its brilliance The King of glory, the King above all kings  
This is amazing grace This is unfailing love That You would take my place That You would bear my cross  
You laid down Your life That I would be set free Oh, Jesus, I sing for All that You've done for me  
Worthy is the Lamb who was slain Worthy is the King who conquered the grave  
Worthy is the Lamb who was slain Worthy is the King who conquered the grave  
Worthy is the Lamb who was slain Worthy is the King who conquered the grave  
Worthy is the Lamb who was slain Worthy, worthy, worthy  
This is amazing grace This is unfailing love That You would take my place That You would bear my cross  
You laid down Your life That I would be set free Oh, Jesus, I sing for All that You've done for me  
All that You've done for me .*

**CLOSING PRAYER: Read and meditate over Romans Chapter 10!**