

Walking Through Romans to Christ

Romans chapter 9 “A Chosen People”

Righteousness by Faith Series

Opening/REVIEW: A chapter that many people have struggled with. One of those things Paul wrote which “is hard to be understood,” as the apostle Peter would say. If we understand parts of it wrongly then our picture of God will be less than pleasant. So let’s explore what this chapter of God’s word has to say for us...

1. Pity for a “chosen” people who didn’t live up to their calling (v.1-5)

- a. Paul loves his people Israel. He sorrowed greatly for their lost condition of darkness (even like Jesus did) “O Jerusalem, Jerusalem...” (*Matthew 23:37*).
- b. “...the adoption, the glory, the covenants” (v.4). The glory of God had dwelt with Israel. The only covenants in the Bible are made with Israel (**Hebrews 8:10**). Even the new covenant. **But are you part of God’s true Israel just because you were born into it? No! (Matthew 3:9)**, and neither are we a Christian just because we’re born into a Christian home. We must be “born again.” Our hearts must be converted to Christ.
- c. The PROMISES were made to the actual nation of Israel (all throughout history though you could join Israel by faith all along—**think of Rehab** in Jericho. Think of Naomi and her daughter-in-Law—**Ruth**. These joined Israel by faith.
- d. (v.5) MESSIAH came to this people—He was PROMISED to them (**Isaiah 9:6**). Is Jesus the ETERNAL GOD? Absolutely!! (You may also reference Micah 5:2).

2. Not an Israelite because you were born Jewish—It’s because you were BORN AGAIN by Faith (v.6-9) *The name Israel means “overcomer”*

- a. (v.7) “In Isaac thy seed shall be called”. “If you are Christ’s, then...” (*Galatians 3:29*)
- b. (v.8) “Children of the Promise”—**Isaac was a type of Christ**. Born by a MIRACLE to a woman who’d never had a child before. Birth was foretold by an angel. Later, THE FATHER had to take the ONLY BEGOTTEN SON to the TOP of a Mountain called Moriah. He and the father went up the hill together—but ALONE (the servants were all left behind like scattered disciples). The SON carried the food for the sacrifice on his back. He was a willing Sacrifice. (Then God provided Himself a sacrifice). The Heart was tested (father, not my will but yours). (*Reference, Genesis 22*).
- c. (v.9) “Word of Promise” (TWO COVENANTS). **What God promised He would do** (physically impossible for old people...). **Man’s EFFORT to fulfill God’s promise did no good. (God did not accept Ishmael as the promised Son, because he wasn’t. Isaac was chosen)**. TWO COVENANTS (people making promises verses the Lord fulfilling His promise.—the people had entered into a covenant on the wrong terms. “All that the Lord hath said...” Exodus 19:8; 24:3). The problem was with “them.” “They continued not in my covenant...” (*Hebrews 8:6-9*).

3. Sounds like God is playing Favorites (v.10-15, 16)

- a. But “God is no respecter of persons” (**Acts 10:34, 35**)
- b. “ELECTION” (God CHOOSES who He will for what He will). **Just like a Teacher chooses someone to run an errand**. They have the right to choose who they want. **God chooses for REASONS we cannot see** because we do not look on the Heart. (**1 Samuel 16:6, 7**) (7 sons passed before Samuel, but God chose the 8th one, the little one).

- c. **God knew the Character of Jacob and Esau before they were born.** Esau chose multiple wives of the Heathen people (he broke his parents' hearts and dishonored God). "He despised his birthright" "sold it" (Genesis 26:34,35; Hebrews 12:16). **God "hated" (disliked) Esau because He was evil.** The original word has the idea of "liked less, disliked." God has "no pleasure" in them that turn from the truth to live a careless/sinful life (Hebrews 10:38). He was not pleased with Esau.
- d. (v.16) "Not him that wills" (**Esau wanted the birthright blessing**, but he didn't want its responsibility of living a righteous life) (Kind of like many who've wanted a savior, but not a Lord or Master). It's not just up to what we will, but it depends on what God will. It is God "who shows mercy". **Don't think** (as some misapply this) that the **Gospel is not open to every soul** who lives or has ever lived. **God clearly says the Gospel is open to "whoever WILL" (Revelation 22:17; Romans 10:12, 13; 2 Peter 3:9; Ezekiel 33:11).**

4. One time God **CHOSE** to Raise up a son of the Devil to Leadership in Egypt (v.17-24)

- a. (v.17) God **KNEW** the Pharaoh's heart before He ever raised up this man as the King over Egypt. God raises up Kings and He puts them down (See Daniel 2:21). God chose to put this man in the throne because He knew this man's heart was so hard and sinful that he'd never surrender. God was going to demonstrate His justice and awesome deliverance through the Exodus event.
- b. (v.18-24) "Mercy on whom He will..." Is this unfair of God? Did the Pharaoh resist God's will? (v.20). Yes, and no. God's **WILL** was for His people to be let go; "Let my people go..." (Exodus 5:1). Another part of God's will was to demonstrate His awesome power (Rom. 9:17), so that no men could ever think that they would have the power to stand in the way of God. Men are so puny and weak compared to the Creator God. We are like mere puppet dolls, no matter how much power or authority other men have given us. So, **God chose to demonstrate His awesome power to smash those who stubbornly resist Him.** Therefore, God chose to raise up a stubborn, rebellious, and sinful man to the throne of Egypt at this time. God did not make the man like that at all—the man chose to be the way he was. **God knew Pharaoh's heart before he was allowed to become a Pharaoh.** God simply chose to put him in power, so He might bring him down hard. "God...endured with much patience" (v.22) the stubbornness of Pharaoh, before putting the man down, and showing the "riches of His glory" on the recipients of His "mercy" (v.23). Was God unjust for this? Who are we to speak against His justice? (v.19,20).
- c. The Bible says in some places, in Exodus, "God hardened Pharaoh's heart". But, it also says, "Pharaoh hardened his heart" (**Exodus 8:15**). Pharaoh was a person who only obeyed when the pressure was applied. How can we understand Pharaoh's heart being hardened by God? It is like two balls sitting in the hot afternoon sun. One of them is made from wax, while the other one is made from wet clay. The sun performs the same action upon both of these objects. However, both respond differently! The wax will melt under the sun, but the clay will harden under the sun. The sun did harden the clay, but it was not the Sun's fault that it was hardened. It was because of the property of the clay that the hardening took place. A different material would surrender and melt.
- d. (**v.24-33**) "**...but also on the Gentiles.**" (v.25-29) *The gift of God's favor and salvation was also to be given to the Gentiles (or non-Jewish by birth, peoples of the earth).* A great number in literal Israel had turned away from the truth of God, but the Lord did everything He could to preserve a righteous people in the earth, so that we'd not all become "as Sodom...and...Gomorrah" (v.29). Many in Israel had come to have a legal and a formal experience with God. They thought that perfect righteousness could be obtained merely by their own self-centered efforts. Many had a "legal" religion, and they were only trusting in themselves for righteousness—self-righteousness! Not God's. These felt as if they needed none higher than themselves for righteousness. Many even felt as if they needed no change in their life, because they felt that they had obtained all they needed. They surely did not see themselves in the true light of God's word, even as with the church of Laodicea (Ref. Revelation 3:17-20).

Today's Appeal: Is it your desire to put your trust in the righteousness and the mercy of God? Will you trust in Him and His work for you, instead of "self-righteousness"? _____