

# **Romans 9**

## **Romans 9.1-5**

**V1** – Why did Paul refer to his conscience? A conscience can serve us well, but not all the time

**-Had his conscience ever been mistaken?**

-*Acts 8.1* – The persecution of Christians

-*Acts 7.58* – He held the clothes of Stephen

**-So how can we trust Paul's conscience in this chapter?** Because the Holy Spirit was verifying the truth of what his conscience was saying

**V3** – “Anathema,” literally: “accursed” or “sent to hell”

**-Who were his kinsmen according to the flesh?** The Jews

**-What tribe was Paul from?** The tribe of Benjamin - See *Phil. 3.5*

**V4** – Where did term "Israel" come from? *Genesis 32.28* – Jacob wrestling with the angel; God changed Jacob's name to Israel

**-What advantages did the Jews have?**

-Adoption as sons of God

-The glory that came with being Jews

-The covenants

-The giving of the Law

-The temple service

-The promises to the fathers

**V5** – What was the greatest honor that God gave to the Jews? The ancestry of Jesus Christ (according to the flesh)

-Notice that Christ was saved to the last of the list

## **Romans 9.6-13**

**V6** – Where else in *Romans* did Paul give this same idea? *Romans 2.28-29*

**-Were there any famous Israelites who were not true Jews, according to the flesh?**

Ruth, the Gibeonites, Rahab the Harlot and her family, others

**V7** – What descendant of Abraham was not included in the promises? Esau

**-What is Paul's point?** Just being a descendant of Abraham was not all-important

**V8** – What is all-important? Being the children of promise

**-The message?** Our relationship with God is spiritual, not physical

-Throughout the Old Testament, God allowed Gentiles into his family, and he also excluded those such as Esau who rejected the rule of God in their hearts

**V 9 – What was the promise that was made to Sarah?** That she would bear a son in her old age

-Was she a "Jew" at that time? No, Judah was still three generations away

**V 10 – Was Rebekah a "Jew" when she bore twin boys?** No, this was still before the beginning of Judaism

**V 11 –** So God set the agenda in the Old Testament, and his will prevailed, regardless of whether a person was a Jew or not

**V 12 – Before they were born, what prophecy was made about Rebekah's twins?** The older one would serve the younger one

**V 13 – Was that predestination?** No, it was foreknowledge (there is a very important distinction there)

-God knew what was going to happen with the twins, but he did not predestine the life of either one

-God knew which would be merciful and righteous, and which one would be wicked

-Therefore, he arranged things to deal with Esau's wickedness (he chose soup over the birthright, because he was interested only in immediate rewards)

## **Romans 9.14-18**

**V 14 – What had brought about this question?** Selecting Jacob over Esau before birth

-It doesn't seem right in our sense of "fairness"

**V 15 – God's answer?** I will show mercy on the one that I choose to show mercy and will have compassion on the one I want to have compassion for - **Read Habakkuk 2.20**

**V 16 –** God is the one who makes the decisions, based on what he knows is coming in the lives of people

**V 17 – Exodus 7.3 –** God hardened Pharaoh's heart

-God could foresee that Pharaoh would be a wicked person, so he allowed him to become ruler of Egypt so that God's will could be carried out in the Old Testament

-**Did God determine that Pharaoh would be a wicked person?** Not at all, but he took advantage of that wickedness to show love for the Israelites

**V 18 –** God is still in control of the universe, and he chooses to bless those who will be faithful to him, and he punishes those who will disobey him

## **Romans 9.19-26**

**V 19 –** God is God, and puny little man has no right or power to question God's authority

**V 20** – What extended illustration did Paul begin at this point? The molding of an object on the potter's wheel

-What is the message? The thing molded does not control the potter, but it is the other way around

**V 21** – What choice does the potter have? To make an object for honorable use (a beautiful vase) or for common use (a simple pot for a plant to be raised in)

**V 22** – Does God have the right to use "*vessels of wrath*" for his own purposes? Yes, just as he used Pharaoh to get the Jews out of Egypt

-Are there other examples of God directing his wrath toward evil people?

-Aaron and the golden calf while Moses received the Ten Commandments – Moses made the people drink powdered gold in their water – *Exodus 32*

- Nadab and Abihu (sons of Aaron) – *Leviticus 10.1-2* – Consumed by fire

-The people complaining about the manna - *Numbers 11.1-9, 31.35*

-Lack of faith in the report of the spies sent into land of Canaan (10 with a bad report, 2 with a good report – Caleb and Joshua) - *Numbers 14.30*

-Korah's rebellion (swallowed into the earth) – *Numbers 16*

**V 23** – Who are the "vessels of mercy" today? Christians, whether Jews and Gentiles

**V 24** – Paul is speaking of the Roman Christians (primarily Gentiles)

**V 25** – Who were "*not my people*"? The Gentiles

**V 26** – What would the "*not my people*" be called, according to Hosea? The sons of the living God

## **Romans 9.27-29**

**V 27** – Out of all of God's people in the Old Covenant, how many will be saved? Only a small number, a remnant

**V 28** – The judgment of the Lord will always be correct

**V 29** – What comparison did Paul make? The Old Testament Jews were almost like the people who were annihilated at Sodom and Gomorrah, except that God saved a remnant of the Jews

## **Romans 9.30-33**

**V 30-31** – What ultimately doomed the Jews? Works

-What ultimately saved the Gentiles? Faith

**V 32** – **How did the Jews stumble?** They "stumbled" over the stumbling stone  
-**What was that "stumbling stone"?** Jesus Christ – **Read 1 Cor. 1.23**

**V 33** – **What promise did God make to those who would not stumble over Jesus Christ?**  
They would not be disappointed  
-What incredible thoughts here!

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