

NOT ASHAMED OF THE GOSPEL

— A Study of Romans —

Lesson Eighteen

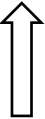
Romans 9:1-13

*This means that it is not the children of the flesh who are the children of God,
but the children of the promise are counted as offspring.*

Romans 9:8

Day 1

Pray:



*Father, may your glory and goodness shine through your word today as I
look to you. Holy Spirit please open my eyes to see and understand.*

Read: Romans 9:1-13. Read it again in another translation such as NLT.

Observe:

- Write key words and themes, repeated words, or phrases. Circle on your Scripture pages any transition words (therefore, but, because, if/then etc.)
- Are there any commands to be obeyed, or truths to be trusted?
- What questions do you have about the text?



Father, help me to continually remember my own underserved status and the riches of your grace poured out on me so that I will ache for the lost as Paul does.

Scholar's Note: In verse 3, Paul uses the word *brothers* to refer to his countrymen—the people of national or ethnic Israel. In this instance he does not use *brothers* to refer to fellow believers.



Another Jewish man did become accursed and cut off for the sake of his fellow Jews, yet they would not accept him. Paul is in anguish over his countrymen's rejection of Jesus. In the rest of this chapter, Paul will teach some important and sometimes hard to accept things about God's sovereignty in salvation, but if we can keep in mind his anguish over his lost kinsmen, it will emphasize to us that God's glory is our best and highest desire.

- ◆ What are your feelings for lost people in your family and in your country? Do you share Paul's sorrowing heart for the lost? Spend some time talking to God about this.

Day 3: Romans 9:4-5



Lord, every word of yours proves true (Prov.30:5). Send your light and your truth (Ps. 43:3) and give me understanding of these verses now. Help me submit to you.

1. In verses 4 and 5 Paul names the privileges that God gave to the Jewish people to point them to the Messiah. Read the Scriptures associated with each privilege. Think about how each of these point to Jesus. Write down your thoughts. The verses in the parenthesis can help you. (This is hard, so don't be discouraged if you can't think of something. We can discuss it together in our groups and help each other.)

Adoption:

Exodus 4:22 *Then you shall say to Pharaoh, 'Thus says the LORD, Israel is my firstborn son...*

(Matthew 3:17)

Glory:

1 Kings 8:10-11 *And when the priests came out of the Holy Place, a cloud filled the house of the LORD, so that the priests could not stand to minister because of the cloud, for the glory of the LORD filled the house of the LORD.*

(John 1:14, 1 Cor. 3:16, 2 Cor. 4:6)

Covenants:

Genesis 17:4,6,7 [God speaking to Abraham] *Behold, my covenant is with you, and you shall be the father of a multitude of nations...I will make you exceedingly fruitful, and I will make you into nations, and kings shall come from you...And I will establish my covenant between me and you and your offspring after you throughout their generations for an everlasting covenant, to be God to you and to your offspring after you.*

Exodus 24:8 *And Moses took the blood and threw it on the people and said, 'Behold the blood of the covenant that the LORD has made with you in accordance with all these words.'*

(Matt. 26:26-29)

Law:

Deuteronomy 4:12-13 ¹² *Then the LORD spoke to you out of the midst of the fire. You heard the sound of words, but saw no form; there was only a voice.* ¹³ *And he declared to you his covenant, which he commanded you to perform, that is, the Ten Commandments, and he wrote them on two tablets of stone.*

Deuteronomy 4:5-8 ⁵ *See, I have taught you statutes and rules, as the LORD my God commanded me, that you should do them in the land that you are entering to take*

possession of it. ⁶ Keep them and do them, for that will be your wisdom and your understanding in the sight of the peoples, who, when they hear all these statutes, will say, 'Surely this great nation is a wise and understanding people.' ⁷ For what great nation is there that has a god so near to it as the LORD our God is to us, whenever we call upon him? ⁸ And what great nation is there, that has statutes and rules so righteous as all this law that I set before you today?

(Matt. 5:17,20, Rom. 7:21-25)

Worship:

Hebrews 9:1-7 Now even the first covenant had regulations for worship and an earthly place of holiness. ² For a tent was prepared, the first section, in which were the lampstand and the table and the bread of the Presence. It is called the Holy Place. ³ Behind the second curtain was a second section called the Most Holy Place, ⁴ having the golden altar of incense and the ark of the covenant covered on all sides with gold, in which was a golden urn holding the manna, and Aaron's staff that budded, and the tablets of the covenant. ⁵ Above it were the cherubim of glory overshadowing the mercy seat... ⁶ These preparations having thus been made, the priests go regularly into the first section, performing their ritual duties, ⁷ but into the second only the high priest goes, and he but once a year, and not without taking blood, which he offers for himself and for the unintentional sins of the people.

(Heb. 10:8-18)

Promises (of the Messiah):

Isaiah 7:14 Therefore the Lord himself will give you a sign. Behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and shall call his name Immanuel.

Micah 5:2 But you, O Bethlehem Ephrathah, who are too little to be among the clans of Judah, from you shall come forth for me one who is to be ruler in Israel, whose coming forth is from of old, from ancient days.

(2 Cor. 1:20)

Patriarchs:

Hebrews 11:8-10 By faith Abraham obeyed when he was called to go out to a place that he was to receive as an inheritance. And he went out not knowing where he was

going. By faith he went to live in the land of promise, as in a foreign land, living in tents with Isaac and Jacob, heirs with him of the same promise. For he was looking forward to the city that has foundations, whose designer and builder is God.

(Luke 24:44-45)

From their race is the Christ (Messiah):

Matthew 1:1 *The book of the genealogy of Jesus Christ, the son of David, the son of Abraham.*

(Heb. 2:14,17)

Picture and Ponder

“God created and designed the Jewish nation to be an earthly picture of who he is, who we are, and what he has done for the world. The whole system points to Jesus and prepared them to see Jesus.”



God gave the Jewish people all of these privileges and advantages and they still chose to reject him. “Free will is doing what we desire to do²”, and in spite of these gracious benefits, this is what they wanted to do. Israel is accountable for their unbelief because God surrounded them with himself, and they chose not to believe.

- ◆ What privileges do you enjoy that nurture your relationship with God? Are you making the most of these benefits?

Picture and Ponder

“If ... anybody is lost, the blame is theirs, but if anybody is saved, the credit is God’s.”³

Day 4: Romans 9:6-9

If God called the Jewish people and chose to reveal himself to them and to bestow on them all of these privileges that point to their Messiah, why then have most Jewish people rejected Jesus? This is the question that Paul is addressing.

1. Look back to Romans 8:30. What are the implications of Jewish unbelief in light of 8:30?

2. What important point does Paul make clear in 6a?
 - a. What truth do we rediscover in 6b?

 - b. How did Paul already address this in 2:28-29 and 4:11?

3. What is Paul's point in 7a?
 - a. How do we see this misguided thinking at work today?

Digging Deeper:

Paul is explaining in verses 7-13 how all of Israel is not true Israel and therefore God's promises have not failed. The first example he uses is Abraham's offspring. Ishmael

was a son of Abraham as well as Isaac—both were his physical descendants. (Not to mention the sons Abraham had after Sarah died.)

a. How is Isaac different according to the verses below?

b. How does Paul refer to Isaac in Romans 9:8-9?

Genesis 21: 9-12 ⁹ But Sarah saw Ishmael—the son of Abraham and her Egyptian servant Hagar—making fun of her son, Isaac. ¹⁰ So she turned to Abraham and demanded, “Get rid of that slave woman and her son. He is not going to share the inheritance with my son, Isaac. I won’t have it!” ¹¹ This upset Abraham very much because Ishmael was his son. ¹² But God told Abraham, “Do not be upset over the boy and your servant. Do whatever Sarah tells you, for Isaac is the son through whom your descendants will be counted. (NLT)

Scholar’s Note: “Children of the promise are those God freely chooses to count as heirs of the promise of life.”⁴



Paul wants to make sure his readers know that despite what things look like, the word of God, or the promises of God, have not failed. On the surface it seems like God’s promises to Israel have fallen through since most of the Jewish people have rejected Jesus, but Paul shows us what has always been true: God’s promises are for those who believe. His promises never fail, it is only our limited understanding and incomplete perception that would make it seem so. We see reality most clearly when we doubt ourselves, not God.

- ◆ Why is it important to know whether or not God’s promises to Israel have failed?

Day 5: Romans 9:10-13

1. The second example Paul uses are the children of Isaac. Isaac and Rebekah had twin boys, but God chose only one of them. What was **not** a factor in God’s choice according to verse 11?

- a. What else was **not** a factor according to verse 12?
2. What was the decisive cause of Jacob being chosen and not Esau according to verse 11?

For Discussion

Some people argue that God knows ahead of time which people will choose him, so he bases his choice on what he knows people will do. How do these verses contradict that?

Election: The Biblical teaching of election is “that before creation God selected out of the human race... those whom he would redeem, bring to faith, justify and glorify in and through Jesus Christ.”⁵

Digging Deeper

The teaching of election runs throughout the Bible, it was not new or unique with Paul. We have seen some examples of it from the Old Testament with Ishmael and Isaac and Esau and Jacob. Read the following verses from the New Testament outside of Romans that teach election.

How does grace and total depravity (sin affects every part of human beings) that Paul has been teaching throughout the beginning of Romans necessarily lead to election?

Matthew 24:31 *He will send out his angels with a loud trumpet call, and they will gather his elect from the four winds.*

John 6:44 *No one can come to me unless the Father who sent me draws him. And I will raise him up on the last day.*

John 13:18 *I am not speaking of all of you; I know whom I have chosen...*

John 15:16 *You did not choose me, but I chose you and appointed you that you should go and bear fruit...*

Acts 13:48 *And when the Gentiles heard this, they began rejoicing and glorifying the word of the Lord, and as many as were appointed to eternal life believed.*

Ephesians 1:4-5 *...even as he chose us in him before the foundation of the world, that we should be holy and blameless before him. In love he predestined us for adoption as sons through Jesus Christ, according to the purpose of his will...*

1 Peter 1:1-2 *To the elect...² who have been chosen according to the foreknowledge of God the Father, by the sanctifying work of the Spirit, to be obedient and to be sprinkled with the blood of Jesus Christ: (NLT)*

1 John 4:10 *In this is love, not that we have loved God but that he loved us and sent his Son to be the propitiation for our sins.*

Revelation 17:14 *[John said] "He is Lord of lords and King of kings, and those with him are called and chosen and faithful.*

For Discussion

In verse 11 Paul contrasts works with God's *calling*. We might have expected him to contrast works and faith. What are the implications of the fact that he contrasts works and calling?

Picture and Ponder

"Faith does not determine one's election, rather election determines who will have faith."⁶

Scholar's Note: When verse 13 says, *Jacob I loved, Esau I hated* we should not think in terms of emotion, rather we should think in terms of *chosen* and *not chosen*. *Hated* in this case, is a Hebrew idiom for preference, like Jesus used

when he said anyone who wanted to follow him must hate their parents, spouse, siblings and their own life in order to follow him (Luke 14:26). He did not mean literal hate but as a comparison to how much they love Jesus.

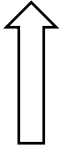


All of us would remain rebels against God if he didn't intervene in our sin sick hearts. We would freely continue to carry out our corrupted desires acting as our own god in our pride and arrogance. But in his mercy and kindness, God reaches out with sovereign purpose and rescues his people. God's reasons for who he calls are not known to us, but there are two things we do know of his purpose of election: it is for the praise of his glorious grace (Eph.1:6) and it is not based on anything inside of us (Rom.9:11).

- ◆ God's sovereignty is his right and power to do all that he wills. Do you embrace this or resist it and why?
- ◆ How does the doctrine of election humble you?
- ◆ How does the doctrine of election exalt God?
- ◆ Why is election our only hope of salvation?
- ◆ Sometimes it helps to name things so that you can pray specifically and think accurately. What part of this doctrine do you struggle with?

Picture and Ponder

"Electing love is ultimate love. If God loved us because he found something better in us, we'd always be afraid of losing his love. And we'd never find his love a total miracle. But God does not say: I love you because you are serviceable to me or: I love you because you are more humble than others. He says: I love you simply because I love you. That is perfect love. This understanding is a fountain of endless praise, gratitude and thanksgiving."⁷



Salvation belongs to our God who sits on the throne, and to the Lamb! Amen! Blessing and glory and wisdom and thanksgiving and honor and power and might be to our God forever and ever! Amen. (Rev. 7:10,12)

More of our questions will be answered next week in the rest of chapter 9 so hang on and continue to pray for God to reign supreme in your mind and heart.

One Thing:

What is one thing from this week's study that God has impressed on your heart, or convicted you about; is there something new that you learned or is there a verse you want to ponder and meditate on?

Praise God for this and thank him for the work he is doing in your life. Ask him to help you remember this and live it out for his glory.

¹ Keller, Timothy. Romans 8-16 For You: For reading, for feeding, for leading (God's Word For You - Romans Series Book 2) (p. 58). The Good Book Company. Kindle Edition.

² Someone said this—not me. Sorry to whoever it is. Probably John Piper or Scott Burns...

³ John Stott, The Message of Romans p.270

⁴ Piper, John. Providence p.106 Crossway, 2020

⁵ J.I. Packer as quoted in <https://cdn.rts.edu/wp-content/uploads/2015/10/Sermon-Notes-Romans-L25.pdf>.

⁶ Kruger, Michael J., <https://cdn.rts.edu/wp-content/uploads/2015/10/Sermon-Notes-Romans-L25.pdf>

⁷ Keller, Timothy. Romans 8-16 For You: For reading, for feeding, for leading (God's Word For You - Romans Series Book 2) (p. 225). The Good Book Company. Kindle Edition.

