

# THE GOOD NEWS OF THE GOSPEL

## Romans 9

Lesson 11

### FIRST DAY: Review and Overview

1. What thought or promise from last week's lesson or lecture has helped you walk in victory this week?
  
2. God always keeps His promises! Doubt and unbelief cannot nullify what He intends to do. God works by His sovereign grace and His perfect timing to accomplish all He has said. Having enumerated the awesome benefits that belong to believers through grace, Paul anticipated their doubts and questions. What about God's promises and purposes for Israel? Had they failed? Could God's Word be trusted? In Romans 9, 10, and 11, Paul took up a discourse on Israel in light of God's grace. Paul drew on the patriarchs, Isaac and Jacob, to show that the original choosing of Israel was based on grace—birthright and human merit had nothing to do with it. Further, Paul maintained that Israel's present unbelief did not invalidate God's promises, but rather showcased His faithfulness, righteousness, justice, and grace. Give a title for each of the sections below:
  - a. Romans 9:1-5
  
  - b. Romans 9:6-13
  
  - c. Romans 9:14-24
  
  - d. Romans 9:25-33
  
3. As you do your study this week, ask God for a greater appreciation of His wisdom.

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

Romans 9:16

**SECOND DAY:** Read Romans 9:1-5

1. Paul used the example of the Jews to demonstrate God's faithfulness to His people and His promises. What did Paul declare in Romans 9:1a about himself?
  - a. On what authority did he base this? Romans 9:1b
2. The Greek word for *accursed* is *anathema*, which means *doomed to destruction*. With this in mind, describe Paul's *heart* for his *countrymen*. Romans 9:2-3
  - a. Compare this with the heart of Moses in Exodus 32:31-32. What do you see?
  - b. How does Paul's attitude reflect the heart of Jesus? See also Galatians 3:13.
3. From Romans 9:4-5a list the benefits that *pertain* to those *who are Israelites*.
  - a. Contrast this with Ephesians 2:11-13 and comment on God's grace toward you.
  - b. Why was Israel's rejection of Jesus so wrong?
    - (1) Connect this with 2 Corinthians 3:14-16 to explain their unbelief.
4. What did Paul declare about the deity of Christ? Romans 9:5b
  - a. Link this declaration with the following verses and share your heart:
    - (1) Colossians 1:16
    - (2) Colossians 2:9
    - (3) Hebrews 1:3

**THIRD DAY:** Read Romans 9:6–13

1. Read Romans 9:6–9 (NLT) and answer the questions that follow. *Well then, has God failed to fulfill His promise to Israel? No, for not all who are born into the nation of Israel are truly members of God's people! Being descendants of Abraham doesn't make them truly Abraham's children. For the Scriptures say, "Isaac is the son through whom your descendants will be counted," though Abraham had other children, too. This means that Abraham's physical descendants are not necessarily children of God. Only the children of the promise are considered to be Abraham's children. For God had promised, "I will return about this time next year, and Sarah will have a son."*
  - a. Why are those *born into the nation of Israel* not automatically *God's people*?
    - (1) Ishmael was Abraham's eldest son and therefore should have received the birthright. How did God demonstrate grace when He chose Isaac, Abraham's second son?
  - b. Using Romans 4:16, how do Jew and Gentile alike become *truly Abraham's children*? See also Galatians 3:8.
    - (1) How does this demonstrate that God has not *failed to fulfill His promise to Israel*?
2. Paul then spoke of the *children* of Isaac and Rebecca (Romans 9:10). Use Romans 9:11–13 to answer the following:
  - a. What did God tell Rebecca about her two sons? Romans 9:12
  - b. When God said He *loved* Jacob and *hated* Esau (Romans 9:13), He was demonstrating the intensity of His choice of Jacob over Esau. Link this with Luke 14:26 and share your thoughts.
  - c. In Romans 9:11a Paul stated that God's choice took place before the *children* were *born* and had nothing to do with their actions. Therefore, for what *purpose* did God do this? Romans 9:11b
  - d. Paul was showing that God's election and choosing are not based on man's actions, but His own sovereign will. What does this convey about:
    - (1) God's plan for the nation of Israel
    - (2) God's faithfulness to His promises
  - e. Why should we trust God's choices? See also Isaiah 55:8–9.

**FOURTH DAY:** Read Romans 9:14–24

1. In light of God's sovereign election (Romans 9:11), Paul anticipated the question, *Is there unrighteousness with God?* (Romans 9:14a) What was Paul's response? Romans 9:14b
2. Romans 9:15–16 (NLT) says, *For God said to Moses, "I will show mercy to anyone I choose, and I will show compassion to anyone I choose." So it is God who decides to show mercy. We can neither choose it nor work for it.* How does this speak to you about God's election?
3. Paul then used the example of Pharaoh, who hardened his heart against the Lord. Use Romans 9:17 to remark on God's *purpose* in this.
  - a. Pastor Brian said, *God not only acknowledges man's decisions, but He also respects and ratifies them.* How is this reality verified in Romans 9:18?
    - (1) Why is this a sobering reality?
4. The next question Paul anticipated was, *Why does God blame people for not responding? Haven't they simply done what He makes them do?* (Romans 9:19, NLT) In your own words, write Paul's response to this challenge from Romans 9:20.
  - a. Use the following Scriptures to comment on why we should trust God's election:
    - (1) Isaiah 46:9–10
    - (2) Jeremiah 29:11
    - (3) Ephesians 2:10
    - (4) Colossians 2:3
5. Paul used the example of the *potter* (Romans 9:21) to support his statement concerning God's sovereign right and will. Link this with Isaiah 29:16 and 45:9. What do you see?
6. Read Romans 9:22–24 (NLT), *In the same way, even though God has the right to show His anger and His power, He is very patient with those on whom His anger falls, who are destined for destruction. He does this to make the riches of His glory shine even brighter on those to whom He shows mercy, who were prepared in advance for glory. And we are among those whom He selected, both from the Jews and from the Gentiles.* How does this passage speak to you concerning God's:
  - a. Right
  - b. Purposes
7. Share a way you have been inspired to trust God.

**FIFTH DAY:** Read Romans 9:25–33

1. Having stated that God has the right to choose Gentiles as well as Jews, Paul used the Old Testament to support his statement. According to Romans 9:25–26, what did Hosea prophesy about God’s choosing?
  - a. How does this minister to you?
2. From Romans 9:27–29 summarize and comment on what Isaiah declared *concerning Israel*.
  - a. Observe that throughout history God has always preserved a *remnant*. What does this convey to you about:
    - (1) God
    - (2) God’s Word
    - (3) God’s promises
3. Having demonstrated God’s sovereign election, Paul addressed man’s responsibility. What did he state about the pursuits and outcome of:
  - a. Gentiles – Romans 9:30
  - b. Jews – Romans 9:31
    - (1) Where did the Jews go wrong? Romans 9:32
    - (2) Link this with Romans 3:20 and Galatians 2:16. What do you see?
4. According to Romans 9:33a, what did Isaiah prophesy about the Jews’ response?
  - a. Why did they react this way? See 1 Peter 2:8.
  - b. Yet, what hope did Isaiah offer? Romans 9:33b
    - (1) Link this with 1 Corinthians 1:22–24 and share your thoughts.

## SIXTH DAY: Review

1. Use this week's study in Romans 9 to comment on:
  - a. God's faithfulness (Romans 9:1-13)
  - b. God's righteousness (Romans 9:14-18)
  - c. God's justice (Romans 9:19-29)
  - d. God's grace (Romans 9:30-33)
2. How do these attributes of God's character give you confidence in His promises?
  - a. Share a specific promise from God's Word that you are waiting for Him to accomplish.

*That He might make known the riches of His glory on the vessels of mercy,  
which He had prepared beforehand for glory.*

Romans 9:23