

Book Study #16 ROMANS

Rom. 9:1-29 – God’s Sovereign Choice

Before We Begin...

1I speak the truth in Christ--I am not lying, my conscience confirms it in the Holy Spirit--2I have great sorrow and unceasing anguish in my heart. 3For I could wish that I myself were cursed and cut off from Christ for the sake of my brothers, those of my own race, 4the people of Israel. Theirs is the adoption as sons; theirs the divine glory, the covenants, the receiving of the law, the temple worship and the promises. 5Theirs are the patriarchs, and from them is traced the human ancestry of Christ, who is God over all, forever praised!^a Amen. 6It is not as though God’s word had failed. For not all who are descended from Israel are Israel. 7Nor because they are his descendants are they all Abraham’s children. On the contrary, "It is through Isaac that your offspring will be reckoned."^b 8In other words, it is not the natural children who are God’s children, but it is the children of the promise who are regarded as Abraham’s offspring. 9For this was how the promise was stated: "At the appointed time I will return, and Sarah will have a son."^c 10Not only that, but Rebekah’s children had one and the same father, our father Isaac. 11Yet, before the twins were born or had done anything good or bad--in order that God’s purpose in election might stand: 12not by works but by him who calls--she was told, "The older will serve the younger."^d 13Just as it is written: "Jacob I loved, but Esau I hated."^e 14What then shall we say? Is God unjust? Not at all! 15For he says to Moses, "I will have mercy on whom I have mercy, and I will have compassion on whom I have compassion."^f 16It does not, therefore, depend on man’s desire or effort, but on God’s mercy. 17For the Scripture says to Pharaoh: "I raised you up for this very purpose, that I might display my power in you and that my name might be proclaimed in all the earth."^g 18Therefore God has mercy on whom he wants to have mercy, and he hardens whom he wants to harden. 19One of you will say to me: "Then why does God still blame us? For who resists his will?" 20But who are you, O man, to talk back to God? "Shall what is formed say to him who formed it, 'Why did you make me like this?'"^h 21Does not the potter have the right to make out of the same lump of clay some pottery for noble purposes and some for common use? 22What if God, choosing to show his wrath and make his power known, bore with great patience the objects of his wrath--prepared for destruction? 23What if he did this to make the riches of his glory known to the objects of his mercy, whom he prepared in advance for glory--24even us, whom he also called, not only from the Jews but also from the Gentiles? 25As he says in Hosea: "I will call them 'my people' who are not my people; and I will call her 'my loved one' who is not my loved one."ⁱ 26and, "It will happen that in the very place where it was said to them, 'You are not my people,' they will be called 'sons of the living God.'"^j 27Isaiah cries out concerning Israel: "Though the number of the Israelites be like the sand by the sea, only the remnant will be saved. 28For the Lord will carry out his sentence on earth with speed and finality."^k 29It is just as Isaiah said previously: "Unless the Lord Almighty had left us descendants, we would have become like Sodom, we would have been like Gomorrah."^l



^a Or Christ, who is over all. God be forever praised! Or Christ. God who is over all be forever praised! ^b7 Gen. 21:12 ^c9 Gen. 18:10, 14 ^d12 Gen. 25:23 ^e13 Mal. 1:2,3 ^f15 Exodus 33:19 ^g17 Exodus 9:16 ^h20 Isaiah 29:16; 45:9 ⁱ25 Hosea 2:23 ^j26 Hosea 1:10 ^k28 Isaiah 10:22,23 ^l29 Isaiah 1:9

If you had brothers or sisters growing up, did you feel your parents treated you equally, or did one get special treatment?

Exploration... Discovery... Revelation...



1. What blessings does Paul list to show that Israel was, indeed, the object of God’s special favor? (vv. 4-5)

2. What objection is Paul responding to in verse 6? How does he answer it? (see Galatians 3:29, 4:28)

3. What is the point of the illustration concerning Jacob and Esau? (vv. 10-14)



4. What is the implied accusation against God in verse 14? How does Paul answer it? (vv. 14-18)

5. In verse 19, a third objection is raised. Paraphrase the question in your own words, and paraphrase.

6. How do verses 22-24 explain why God prepared "objects of wrath" for destruction?

7. Who are the objects of God's wrath? (v. 22) Who are the objects of his mercy? (vv. 23-24)

What do you think? Some "food" for thought...

1. What is the main thing Paul is trying to demonstrate in this passage?
2. Why is it important to remember Romans 3:23 as we consider what it is "fair" for God to do?
3. What is one question you would like to ask Paul about this passage?



As we end this part of the Journey...

Pray for each other during this New Year! Pray that we would each live out the "Holy Life." A life filled with the desire to do the Will of God and follow Christ and the Holy Spirit without fear or reservation.

"No, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him who loved us. For I am convinced that (absolutely nothing in all creation), will be able to separate us from the love of God that is in Christ Jesus our Lord." (The Apostle Paul in Romans 8:37-39)