

# SERMON NOTES

By Pastor John Paul Miller

## *In The Grip of God's Grace*

The Epistle of Paul the Apostle to the Romans

### **Romans 9:1-13 - "Election, Israel's Past (Pt. 1)"**

Romans 8:31-39, *"I say the truth in Christ, I lie not, my conscience also bearing me witness in the Holy Ghost, That I have great heaviness and continual sorrow in my heart. For I could wish that myself were accursed from Christ for my brethren, my kinsmen according to the flesh: Who are Israelites; to whom pertaineth the adoption, and the glory, and the covenants, and the giving of the law, and the service of God, and the promises; Whose are the fathers, and of whom as concerning the flesh Christ came, who is over all, God blessed for ever. Amen. Not as though the word of God hath taken none effect. For they are not all Israel, which are of Israel: Neither, because they are the seed of Abraham, are they all children: but, In Isaac shall thy seed be called. That is, They which are the children of the flesh, these are not the children of God: but the children of the promise are counted for the seed. For this is the word of promise, At this time will I come, and Sara shall have a son. And not only this; but when Rebecca also had conceived by one, even by our father Isaac; (For the children being not yet born, neither having done any good or evil, that the purpose of God according to election might stand, not of works, but of him that calleth;) It was said unto her, The elder shall serve the younger. As it is written, Jacob have I loved, but Esau have I hated."*

We come today to a new and very important division in our study of the Book of Romans.

- I. Condemnation (1:18-3:20) – The wrath of God revealed
- II. Salvation (3:21-8:39) – The righteousness of God revealed
- III. Vindication (9:1-11:36) – The wisdom of God revealed

These chapters form what is termed a "theodicy", a vindication of God, a justification of His dealings with men... The over riding theme is the Sovereignty of God

Why would Paul, at this point in his letter, seek to vindicate God?

Paul, in chapter 8, had just argued that the believer is secure in Jesus Christ, and that God's election would stand.

Paul anticipated someone might ask, 'what about Israel, they were chosen by God, and yet now you tell us they are set aside and God is building His church. Did God fail to keep His promises to Israel?

Has God's word failed?

If God was not faithful to the Jews, how do we know He will be faithful to the church?

Paul vindicates God's faithfulness in His sovereign election, which is a difficult doctrine to understand.

In this section Paul set's forth three things:

### I. Paul's Passion (vs. 1-3)

*Romans 9:1-3, "I say the truth in Christ, I lie not, my conscience also bearing me witness in the Holy Ghost, That I have great heaviness and continual sorrow in my heart. For I could wish that myself were accursed from Christ for my brethren, my kinsmen according to the flesh:"*

Chapters 9-11 focus on the sovereignty of God but they open up with the salvation of man.

Each of these three chapters opens with a statement of Paul's passion and love for Israel:

*Romans 10:1, "Brethren, my heart's desire and prayer to God for Israel is, that they might be saved."*

*Romans 11:1, "I say then, Hath God cast away his people? God forbid. For I also am an Israelite, of the seed of Abraham, of the tribe of Benjamin."*

Why?

In verse's 1-3 of chapter 9, Paul begins with a strong threefold affirmation of His love for Israel.

*I say the truth in Christ,  
I am not lying or exaggerating,  
my conscience confirms it in the Holy Spirit.*

What's the truth Paul desires to convey?

Answer (vs. 2-3)

*Romans 9:2-3, "That I have great heaviness and continual sorrow in my heart. For I could wish that myself were accursed from Christ for my brethren, my kinsmen according to the flesh:"*

Would to God that we were more like Paul in his passion for the lost.

- willing to stay out of heaven for the saved

- willing to go to Hell for the lost (Like Moses – Exodus 32:32)

Exodus 32:32, *“Yet now, if thou wilt forgive their sin--; and if not, blot me, I pray thee, out of thy book which thou hast written.”*

Could Paul be accursed?

No!

Romans 8:38-39, *“For I am persuaded, that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor principalities, nor powers, nor things present, nor things to come, Nor height, nor depth, nor any other creature, shall be able to separate us from the love of God, which is in Christ Jesus our Lord.”*

Romans 9:2-3, *“...For I could wish that myself were accursed from Christ for my brethren, my kinsmen according to the flesh:”*

It's in the imperfect tense – it's not possible.

## II. Israel's Privileges (vs. 4-5)

Romans 9:4-5, *“Who are Israelites; to whom pertaineth the adoption, and the glory, and the covenants, and the giving of the law, and the service of God, and the promises; Whose are the fathers, and of whom as concerning the flesh Christ came, who is over all, God blessed for ever. Amen.”*

Paul's anguish over unbelieving Israel was made more painful when He thought of all the unique privileges they possessed.

Paul mentions eight:

1. Theirs is the adoption as sons (vs. 4)

Exodus 4:22, *“And thou shalt say unto Pharaoh, Thus saith the LORD, Israel is my son, even my firstborn:”* No other nation!

2. Theirs the divine glory (vs. 4)

The visible splendor of God, which filled the first tabernacle and then the temple.

3. Theirs too are the covenants (vs. 4)

To Abraham, Isaac, Jacob, and Moses – David also – a new covenant (Jeremiah 31)

4. The giving or receiving of the law (vs. 4)

“... ”

Only to Israel – the unique revelation of God’s will spoken by His voice and written with His finger.

5. The service of God (vs. 4)

It’s the temple worship – the priesthood and sacrifices

6. The promises (vs. 4)

Of the coming of the Messiah, as God’s Prophet Priest and King.

7. The father’s or Patriarch’s (vs. 5)

8. Above all – Christ! (vs. 5)

*“...as concerning the flesh Christ came, who is over all, God blessed for ever.”*

Notice His: Humanity & Deity

The New International Version (NIV) says, *“who is God over all forever praised.”*

Jesus is Lord

Philippians 2:9, *“Wherefore God also hath highly exalted him, and given him a name which is above every name:”*

Colossians 2:9, *“For in him dwelleth all the fulness of the Godhead bodily.”*

Psalms 45:6-7, *“Thy throne, O God, is for ever and ever: the sceptre of thy kingdom is a right sceptre. Thou lovest righteousness, and hatest wickedness: therefore God, thy God, hath anointed thee with the oil of gladness above thy fellows.”*

In light of all these wonderful blessings and privileges – how can we explain the mystery of Israel’s blindness and hardening?

Romans 11:25, *“For I would not, brethren, that ye should be ignorant of this mystery, lest ye should be wise in your own conceits; that blindness in part is happened to Israel, until the fulness of the Gentiles be come in.”*

Paul explains the mystery by asking four questions.

We’ll look only at the first question today, It’s found in verse 6 and leads us to our last point.

### III. God's purpose (vs. 6-13)

Romans 9:6-13, *"Knowing this, that our old man is crucified with him, that the body of sin might be destroyed, that henceforth we should not serve sin. For he that is dead is freed from sin. Now if we be dead with Christ, we believe that we shall also live with him: Knowing that Christ being raised from the dead dieth no more; death hath no more dominion over him. For in that he died, he died unto sin once: but in that he liveth, he liveth unto God. Likewise reckon ye also yourselves to be dead indeed unto sin, but alive unto God through Jesus Christ our Lord. Let not sin therefore reign in your mortal body, that ye should obey it in the lusts thereof. Neither yield ye your members as instruments of unrighteousness unto sin: but yield yourselves unto God, as those that are alive from the dead, and your members as instruments of righteousness unto God."*

Verse 6 – has God's promise failed? [Literally, fallen?]

Greek – taken none effect – it's a picture of a ship going off it's course.

The answer is of course, No!

God is faithful no matter what men may do. Israel's failure was her own failure, it was not due to the failure of God's word.

Paul explains God's purpose in His divine election.

#### 1. It was not of natural descent (vs. 6-9)

For they are not all Israel, which are of Israel (vs. 6)

There has always been two Israel's, physical & spiritual

*Romans 2:28-29, "For he is not a Jew, which is one outwardly; neither is that circumcision, which is outward in the flesh: But he is a Jew, which is one inwardly; and circumcision is that of the heart, in the spirit, and not in the letter; whose praise is not of men, but of God."*

Old Testament illustration (vs. 7-9) Isaac & Ishmael

#### 2. Its not human merit or moral virtues (vs. 10-13)

Key – verse 11, - *"...the purpose of God according to election might stand,"*

Notice the contrast:

God's word or purpose fallen (vs. 6)

God's elective purposes stand (vs. 11)

God operates according to the principle of election.

It's the same today!

- it's not of works (vs. 11)
- It's not of natural descent
- It's not of human merit or moral virtues

Our salvation is due entirely to His grace, will, initiative, wisdom and power.

It will stand and not fall!

In closing lets review and notice:

Paul's passion for the lost (vs. 1-3)

God's love for the lost (John 3:16)