

Romans 9:1-33

Lesson Twelve

*“O give us hearts to live like Thee,
Like Thee, O Lord, to grieve,
Far more for others’ sins than all
The wrongs that we receive.”*

Edward Denny

DAY ONE: Review of Basic Doctrines

1. In **Romans 9** Paul deals with the *election of God* and the *free will of man*. Look up the following words as a way of review and then record what the following verses have to say about each word. Remember to keep the context of each setting in mind asking yourself the “*who, what, where, when, why, and how*” for each word and reference!

a. ***Called:***

1) **1 Corinthians 1:9:**

2) **1 Thessalonians 2:12:**

3) **Matthew 22:1-14:**

4) Your thoughts:

b. ***Foreknowledge - Foreordained:***

1) **Acts 2:23:**

2) **Acts 15:16-18:**

3) **Romans 8:29:**

4) **Romans 11:2a:**

5) **1 Peter 1:1-5:**

6) **1 Peter 1:20:**

7) Your thoughts:

c. ***Predestination – Predestinate:***

1) **Romans 8:29-30:**

2) **Ephesians 1:3-6:**

3) **Ephesians 1:11:**

4) **Acts 4:27-28:**

5) Your thoughts:

d. ***Election - Elect:***

1) **Matthew 24:22,24&31:**

2) **John 15:16:**

3) **Romans 8:33:**

4) **Colossians 3:12:**

5) **2 Peter 1:10:** *(These things refers to verses 5-7)*

6) **Revelation 17:14:**

7) Your thoughts:

2. Now *prayerfully* read **Romans 9:1-33**. Keeping in mind that God is Sovereign (from last week's study). In **Romans 9:1-29** we see *God's Sovereign Choice* and in **Romans 9:30-33** we see *Israel's Unbelief*.

Great job! I know this study has been challenging. Don't get caught up in how much of the homework you are able to complete. ***It is not how much you know it is WHOM you know!*** As long as you are drawing closer to Jesus and your relationship with Him is becoming stronger, you are right where He wants you!

As you can see, the Bible clearly teaches both Sovereign election and man's free choice. While we do not *comprehend*, we merely *apprehend*. Because God's Word says it, we know it to be true! It has been said that these two concepts only meet in the mind of God. We will never understand all that there is to understand about the book of Romans. Just hold onto the truths that God shows you, and trust Him for the rest. As Pastor Chuck says about the things we don't understand, "*stick it in a file labeled 'waiting for further information.'*" In the meantime, pray and ask God to...

***"Take my heart and form it, take my mind and transform it,
Take my will and conform it to Yours, to Yours, O Lord!"***

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DAY TWO: Romans 9:1-13

1. What is Paul's point in **verses 1-5**?
 - a. What does Paul testify to in **verses 1-2**?
 - b. Using your study tools, look up the following phrases from **Verse 2**:
 - 1) ***Great sorrow:***
 - 2) ***Continual grief:***
2. What is Paul's desire as expressed in **verse 3**?
 - a. What insight does this give you for the love Paul had for the people?
 - b. Take a minute to express your love for your immediate family, your relatives, and finally, your nation!

Challenge: Name someone who had that type of love for his brethren in the Old Testament. Be sure to give Scripture references.

3. Who are the countrymen Paul is speaking of in **verse 3** according to **Romans 9:4**?
4. What Scriptures can you find that prove Paul could relate to them as "*countrymen*" (brethren or kinsmen)? You may have to dig a little on this one!
Example: How does Paul describe himself in **Philippians 3:4-7**?
5. What does **Romans 9:4-5** say belongs to these "*chosen*" people that no other people can claim?

- | | |
|----|----|
| 1) | 5) |
| 2) | 6) |
| 3) | 7) |
| 4) | 8) |

6. What truth does **Romans 9:5b** give about Christ?

7. What statement did Paul make in **Romans 9:6**?

a. How did he answer himself in:

1) **Romans 9:6b**

2) **Romans 9:7** (*Check out Genesis 21:12*)

3) **Romans 9:8**

b. What does it say about *“the children of the flesh”* in **verse 8**?

The illustration that Paul uses of the *“children of the flesh”* is referring to Ishmael. Ishmael was conceived when Sarah tried to help God fulfill His promise by giving her handmaid, Hagar to Abraham. Isaac was the one who was the fulfillment of that promise, miraculously born to Sarah in her old age (Genesis 18,21 and Romans 4). How do you see a picture of God’s free Grace given to all for salvation in contrast to trying in our own efforts to fulfill God’s plan?

8. In way of review, it is important to point out:

a. In **Romans 4**, we saw that **all men** are justified by Faith regardless whether a Jew or a Gentile!

b. The passages we are dealing with now are describing God’s election of **Israel as a nation**, and Israel is the only nation God ever chose as His own: He is not done with them!

c. When we personally receive Jesus as our Lord and Savior, our individual election is then demonstrated. It is when we make a choice to give our life to Him. But our choice was fore known to God who predestined us into fellowship with Him for all of eternity! Don’t even *try* to understand. Remember we only apprehend it because God’s Word teaches it!

9. According to **verses 8-9**, who is considered to be the seed of Abraham? (*Verse 9 is a quote from Genesis 18:10*).

10. Israel means *“Governed by God.”* Not all in Israel can say of themselves *“I am governed by God.”* Can you?

11. In **Romans 9:11**, what important truths do you see about God’s choices and His sovereign will?

a. In Whom do you put your trust?

12. What distinction did God make between Isaac and Ishmael, the sons of Abraham? Read **Genesis 25:20-28**. Then read **Malachi 1:2-3**. Who did God favor?
13. What distinction did God make between Jacob and Esau, the sons of Isaac? Read **Genesis 36:9** and **Obadiah 9-10**. Who did God favor?
14. Look up the word “*hated*” in **Romans 9:13** using your study tools and write out the definition here:
 - a. How did Jesus use this word in **Luke 14:25-27**, and what does it mean for us today?

Pastor Chuck says, “*this is difficult for us to understand. Why, before Jacob and Esau were ever born, would God accept one and reject the other? The reason is that salvation stands by election alone and not by works. God calls and elects whomever He wishes. So, I can’t honestly look at myself and say that God elected me because I’m so good. God simply acted on the basis of His own divine Sovereignty. The fact that God chose to elect me thrills me and makes me ever grateful to Him!*” He goes on to say “*Of course God made His choice in this election with the knowledge that Jacob would be a spiritual man and Esau a fleshly one. Yet, no one can say that Jacob was elected because he was so wonderful, kind or generous. God simply chose him!*”

DAY THREE: Read Romans 9:14-21

1. What question did Paul ask in **Romans 9:14A**?
 - a. How did he answer himself in **Romans 9:14b**:
 - b. What does God say to Moses in **Romans 9:15**:
 - c. Look up **Exodus 33:18-23**.
 - 1) What is the context?
 - 2) Why did Paul use this reference?
 - d. What is the conclusion in **Romans 9:16**: “*So then...*”
2. Look up the following familiar verses that confirm this concept and remember to look for key words!
 - a. **Ephesians 2:4-10**:
 - b. **John 1:12-13**:
 - c. **John 15:16**:

- d. **Titus 3:4-7:**
3. In **Romans 9:17** Paul alludes to Pharaoh. Beginning in **Exodus 7:1** we see that God sent Moses to Pharaoh to plead “let my people go” from the land of Egypt. What instruction does God give Moses and Aaron in **Exodus 7:1-5** (you can read on if you wish). What was the outcome of God hardening Pharaoh’s heart according to **Romans 9:17-18**?
- a. God hardened Pharaoh’s heart because Pharaoh had purposed in his heart to reject God. God merely helped the process along by leaving him to himself in his natural state. Look up the following verses and record what they say:
- 1) **Exodus 5:2**
 - 2) **Exodus 8:15**
 - 3) **Exodus 9:34**
- b. Have you purposed in your heart to reject God’s plan for your life? What does **Hebrews 3:15** say? Let it be your desire today!
4. What is God’s predestination based upon?
- a. Summarize the following verses in your own words?
- 1) **Joshua 24:14-15:**
 - 2) **Ezekiel 18:30-32:**
 - 3) **John 1:2:**
 - 4) **John 3:16:**
 - 5) **John 10:9:**
 - 6) **Revelation 3:20:**
5. **Romans 9:19** is stated this way in the Living Bible in reply to **verse 18**. Paul asks the questions “*Well then, why does God blame them for not listening? Haven't they done what he made them do?*”
- a. How does Paul reply his own question in **verse 20-21**?

6. How do the following verses coincide with **Romans 9:20-21**. Really think about this as you look up the following verses and answer this question.
- Isaiah 29:16:**
 - Isaiah 45:9:**
 - Isaiah 64:8:**
 - Jeremiah 18:4-6:**
- 1) **William Newell says**, “In the Scriptures, those who meet God fall into the dust. ‘*I am but dust and ashes,*’ said Abraham. And Job: ‘*Mine eye seeth Thee, and I abhor myself, and repent in dust and ashes.*’” Remember Isaiah’s reaction when he saw the Lord in **Isaiah 6:1-8**? If you don’t remember, turn there and refresh your memory.
7. **Spend the rest of your time today in prayer.** Again, don’t try to comprehend and reconcile these two facts. God is God, and if we understood everything about God, we would be God! That would be no fun at all! Just rest in the fact that He is Sovereign and we are not. His ways are not our ways; His ways are much higher than our ways!

DAY FOUR: Romans 9:22-24

1. “*If I am the elect, I will go to heaven; and if I am not elect, there is no use in my worrying about the way I live my life, it doesn’t matter anyway!*” What do the following verses indicate about that statement?
- Matthew 22:2-3:**
 - John 3:16:**
 - 2 Peter 3:9:**
 - Comment in your own words:
2. Read **Romans 9:22-24**. These verses speak of God’s Sovereignty. Now read **Romans 9:22-24** in The Living Bible Translation below:
- “Does not God have a perfect right to show his fury and power against those who are fit only for destruction, those he has been patient with for all this time? And he has a right to take others such as ourselves, who have been made for pouring the riches of his glory into, whether we are Jews or Gentiles, and to be kind to us so that everyone can see how very great his glory is.”***
- What does **2 Peter 3:9,15** show you about God?
 - How should we regard His patience?

- c. What does **Ephesians 2:4-7** say about God?
- d. In contrast to mercy, speaking of the execution of wrath, how does **Isaiah 28:21c** describe this act of God?
3. What two classes of people does Paul address in **Romans 9:22-23**?
- 1) _____ 2) _____
4. Look up the following words from **Romans 9:22** using your study tools, and write the definitions here:
- a. **Wrath:**
- c. **Long suffering:**
- b. **Destruction:**
- 1) Who are these things reserved for?
5. Look up the following verses and comment in your own words:
- a. **John 3:16-18:**
- b. **1 John 2:2:**
6. According to the following verses, who is preparing some vessels for glory?
- a. **Romans 9:23:**
7. The challenge in studying Romans is keeping God's Sovereignty and man's responsibility in balance! In **Romans 10**, we will take a closer look at man's responsibility. What does **2 Timothy 2:21** have to say about us as a vessel?
- a. Let it be the prayer of your heart that you would be a "*vessel of honor useful for the Master!*"

"All men stand under the wrath of God. Therefore, there is no injustice done to a wicked man if God chooses to show mercy to another. One thing will happen, however. The vessel of mercy will fall upon his face in utter adoration and praise, and he will become a willing servant, willingly owned and possessed by his Savior."

WORD Search Commentary on Romans.

DAY FIVE: Romans 9:24-33

1. Prayerfully read **Romans 9:24-33**.
2. According to **Romans 9:24**, who did God call?
3. Summarize **Romans 9:25-28** in your own words.

4. What extreme statement did Isaiah make regarding the future of any nation or people without a remnant of those that are faithful to God in **verse 29**?
5. According to **Romans 9:30-31** what is Paul's conclusion regarding...
 - a. **The Gentiles?**
 - b. **Israel?**
6. How are we to seek Righteousness according to **Romans 9:32**? By _____.
 - a. How does **Acts 15:7-11** further elaborate this?

7. What does Paul mean by "*stumbling stone*" in **Romans 9:32-33**?
 - a. What does **1 Corinthians 1:23-24** have to say about this "*stumbling block*"?
 - b. Was there ever a time in your life that the Name of Jesus was a stumbling block to you?

8. Throughout our study in the book of Romans we have seen the Deity of Jesus Christ. How does Jesus being God revealed in human form serve as a dividing point? Show this using the Scriptures in the columns below?

Truth and Error?	Biblical Christianity and Religion?	Hope and Despair?
<i>1 John 4:1-6</i>	<i>John 10:8-10, 14:6</i>	<i>1 Corinthians 15:12-20</i>

9. Jesus Christ is the Rock! One way or another, depending upon our response to Him, He will be a stumbling stone or a foundation stone. Choose one or two of the following Scriptures and record what they say about this.
- a. **Matthew 7:24-25:**
 - b. **Matthew 21:42-44:**
 - c. **Ephesians 2:19-22:**
 - d. **1 Corinthians 10:4:**

Selah!

10. What one thing stood out to you most during your study this week?

***“On Christ the solid Rock I stand,
All other ground is sinking sand.
All other ground is sinking sand.”***

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