

REASONS FROM ROMANS

For I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ...

Lesson 8: ELECTION – Romans 9:1-11:36

Part One: Chapter 9

A. Sketch of this section

- 9:1-33 Israel & DIVINE election
10:1-21 Israel & HUMAN decision
11:1-36 Israel & GOD'S ultimate PURPOSE

B. The “Ache” of a saved man (9:1-5)

1. Paul concludes chapter 8 with the blessed assurance that nothing can separate us from the love of God! What, then, could Paul possibly be so upset about? THE LOST CONDITION OF HIS COUNTRYMEN.

How does Paul describe his feelings over the state of his fellow Jews? GREAT SORROW & UNCEASING ANGUISH!

Read 10:1-4. What is Paul's prayer for them? THAT THEY MIGHT BE SAVED

And, what obstacle was keeping them from accepting the salvation in Christ?

Who do you “ache” for and pray for?

What do you think? Can sorrow and joy coexist in a believer's heart? Is it possible to have “great sorrow and unceasing anguish” in your heart, and still “rejoice in the Lord always”?

2. What special privileges or “advantages” did God give to Israel? (9:4-5; 3:1-2)

Read 3:9. With those “advantages”, why weren't the Jews “better off” than the Gentiles?

C. Children of the promise (9:6-9)

3. Does the Jewish rejection of Christ and Christianity mean that God's Word was left unfulfilled and that His plan failed? NO, JUST THAT THE MAJORITY OF THE JEWS REJECTED HIM, CUTTING THEMSELVES OUT OF GOD'S NEW COVENANT PLAN (John 1:9-12; Mat 8:10-12)
4. Two astounding revelations about the nation of Israel:
 - ✧ Not all Israelites are TRUE Israelites!
 - ✧ Not all TRUE Israelites are Israelites!

NOTE: Paul's letter to the Galatians sheds some light on Romans 9:6-9. Read Galatians 3:6-9, 26-29 & 4:21-31. Isaac was the promised son of Abraham and Sarah. Under the Old Covenant only those born in Isaac's bloodline were Abraham's blessed children. Now in the New Covenant, it is those who believe in God's promised Son, Jews or Gentiles, who are Abraham's blessed children – true children of the promise!

D. God's Unquestionable Choices (9:10-29)

5. God makes "calls" and "choices" that we don't always understand. What are the two examples Paul cites here? JACOB & ESAU; and, THE PHARAOH of Egypt during the Exodus

What point(s) does he make from these case studies? GOD MADE HIS DIVINE CHOICES, AND HAD EVERY RIGHT TO!

6. Does God have the right to do as He pleases? (See also Psalm 115:3; 135:6) YES! THE CREATION IS HIS!

Do we have the right to question His call and election? (See also Isaiah 55:8-9; Job 11:7-8; Deut 29:29 & Rom 11:33-36) WE HAVE THE FREE-WILL TO DO SO, BUT IT IS NOT RIGHT!

How does the potter/clay analogy make you feel? (See also Isaiah 29:16; 45:9-12; 64:8; Eph 2:10)

7. In the context of this chapter, identify the "objects (vessels) of his wrath" and the "objects (vessels) of his mercy".

Read these scriptures: Rom 8:28-30; 3:5-8; Ephesians 1:3-14; 1 Thes 5:9; Mat 25:34,41; 1 Tim 2:1-6; Acts 13:48; 18:9-10

Put a checkmark by the statements clearly taught in the scriptures:

- God doesn't yet know who will be saved and who will be lost
- God knows the saved beforehand
- God chose the saved beforehand
- The idea that God "predestines" people is contrary to scripture
- God predestines (predetermines) those he foreknew "in Christ"
- God's "call and election" leave us no choice regarding our ultimate destiny
- God has destined some for eternal punishment
- God never interferes or influences man's choices and decisions
- God gives every human being an equal opportunity to be saved

8. What point(s) does Paul make from the Old Testament references he cites in verses 25-29?

E. Those who “stumbled onto it” & those who “stumbled over it”! (9:30-33)

8. Who “stumbled onto” God’s righteousness through Christ?

And, how did they manage to “get” it?

9. Who “stumbled over” God’s righteousness through Christ?

And, how did they manage to “miss” it?

10. Which path to “righteousness” will you choose? (Check one)

(Think about Matthew 6:33; 1 Timothy 6:11 & 2 Timothy 2:22. And, remember Paul’s words from earlier in the Roman letter: 1:16-17; 3:1-28; 4:1-5,22-25; 5:1,19)

- Pursue righteousness by law/law keeping
- Pursue righteousness by faith in Jesus Christ
- Pursue righteousness by moral living/good deeds
- Don’t pursue righteousness at all!