

For next Sunday...

God's Promises And Israel's Unbelief

Romans 9:1-13

The challenge of Romans 9-11...

Important realities for us from this scripture...

1. We grieve for those who have (so far) rejected Christ.

Paul also worked hard to share God's gospel with those who had rejected it.

2. No one is saved because of their parents.

Not all "Christians" are "Christians."

3. The supremacy of God and His purpose should compel us to submit to Him in all things—and actively trust Him.

The right response to God's greatness: worship and work.

Paul's great sorrow

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.

Why Paul's sorrow and anguish?

Israel's great privileges

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! Amen.

So... though the Jews had all these privileges, what went wrong?

Has God failed to accomplish what He promised?

God's word has not failed.

It is not as though God's word had failed. For not all who are descended from Israel are Israel. ⁷ Nor because they are his descendants are they all Abraham's children. On the contrary, "It is through Isaac that your offspring will be reckoned."⁸ In 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.

Not all

"descended from Israel" are "Israel" (6)

Abraham's "descendants" are "Abraham's children" (7)

"natural children" are "God's children" (8)

²⁸*For he is not a Jew who is so outwardly, neither is circumcision that which is outward in flesh;²⁹ but a Jew is he who is so inwardly, and circumcision is of the heart, in spirit...*
(Romans 2:28-29)

Paul is saying:

God has not changed. His word has not failed.

God never promised that every Jew was saved.

God is accomplishing what He promised, but it is different than what people thought He was doing.

God never promised to bless all the Jews—and only them.

It was always God's purpose to have "children of the promise"

**God promised Abram: "all peoples on earth will be blessed through you."
(Genesis 12:1-3)**

God's purpose will be accomplished through Sarah and Isaac.

⁹*For this was how the promise was stated: "At the appointed time I will return, and Sarah will have a son."*

God chose to accomplish His purpose through Jacob—not Esau.

¹⁰*Not only that, but Rebekah's children had one and the same father, our father Isaac. ¹¹ Yet, before the twins were born or had done anything good or bad—in order that God's purpose in election might stand: ¹² not by works but by him who calls—she was told, "The older will serve the younger."¹³ Just as it is written: "Jacob I loved, but Esau I hated."*

God's purpose in election...

Just as it is written: "Jacob I loved, but Esau I hated."

Malachi 1:2-3

Genesis 25:23