

McCoy Memorial Baptist Church

DATE: March 24, 2021

Wednesday Class: "Romans: God's **Good News** for the World"

INTRODUCTION:

"Romans 9-11 is as full of problems as a hedgehog is full of prickles. Many have given it up as a bad job, leaving Romans as a book with eight chapters of 'gospel' at the beginning, four of 'application' at the end, and three of puzzle in the middle." [N. T. Wright, The Climax of the Covenant. Christ and the Law in Pauline Theology. 1991].

PAUL'S _____ OF HEART (9:1-3)

1. His _____ over them (9:1ff.)
2. His _____ for them (10:1ff.)
3. His _____ concerning them (11:1ff.)

PAUL'S _____ OF MIND: ISRAEL'S _____ (9:4, 5)

1. Israel's _____ and _____ (vss. 4, 5)
 - A. Their _____ as sons (see Exodus 4:22-23; Jer. 31:9; Hosea 11:1).
"Israel is my firstborn son" (Exod. 4:22-23; cp. Hos. 11:1). A figure of speech indicating Israel's special relationship to God. Compare Jeremiah 31:9 - "I am Israel's father".
 - B. Theirs the _____.
The glory cloud (shekinah) in tabernacle and temple was evidence of God's presence among His people. The cloud came to be permanently localized in the inner sanctuary so that Yahweh could be described as "enthroned between the cherubim that are on the ark".
 - C. Theirs the _____.
The covenants of the OT were the basis for (established) God's relationship with Israel. There were five (Abrahamic, Mosaic, Land, Davidic, New). All but the Mosaic Covenant were/are unilateral, eternal, and unconditional.
 - D. Theirs the _____ of the _____.
The Law of Moses was to govern their political, social, and religious life, and to guarantee His blessing if they obeyed. The Mosaic Law made Israel distinct/separate fr. surrounding nations.
 - E. Theirs the _____ worship.
The "temple service" comprised all the prescribed regulations for the priesthood & sacrifices.
 - F. Theirs the _____.
Especially those made to Abraham (Gen. 12:1-3, 7; 13:14-17; 17:4-8; 22:16-18) but also including the many OT messianic promises.
 - G. Theirs are the _____.
The patriarchs are Abram, Isaac, Jacob, & sons thru whom the messianic promises are fulfilled.
 - H. From them is traced the _____ ancestry of _____.

2. Israel's unbelief: To what should we attribute it? (9:6-11:32)

A. Has _____ failed? (9:6; cp. 3:3-4)

B. Has God _____ His people whom He _____? (11:1-2)

C. Have they _____ so as to fall beyond _____? (11:11)

FOUR QUESTIONS (9:6-33)

1. Question #1: Has God's word failed? (vss. 6-13)

No, God has kept his promise, which was addressed, however, not to all Israel but to true, spiritual Israel (6b) whom he had called according to His own "purpose in election" (11-12). So, God's promise did not fail; but it was fulfilled only in the Israel within Israel.

A. The Principle (i.e., election) _____ (vs. 6)

B. The Principle (i.e., election) _____ (vss. 7-13)

1) Abraham and his two sons: Isaac was chosen; Ishmael was not (9:7-9)

2) Isaac and his two sons: Jacob (the younger) was chosen; Esau was not (9:10-13)

2. Question #2: Is God _____ to exercise His sovereign choices? (vss. 14-18)

No. To Moses He stressed His mercy (vs. 15), and to Pharaoh His power in judgment (vs. 17). But it is not 'unjust' either to show mercy to the undeserving or to harden those who harden themselves (vs. 18). Both mercy and judgment are fully compatible with justice.

A. God's word to _____ (vss. 15-16; see Exodus 33:19)
God determined/chose to _____ sinful Israel with undeserved grace!

B. God's word to _____ (vss. 17-18; see Exodus 9:16)
God determined/chose to _____ sinful Pharaoh with deserved judgment!

1) Pharaoh hardened his heart against God and refused to humble himself.

2) God hardened Pharaoh's heart in judgment (cp. Rom. 1:24, 26, 28).

3) God overthrew the army of Egypt in the Red Sea.

4) God's name was proclaimed in all the earth (both then and today).

3. Question #3: When does God still blame us? For who resists His will? (vss. 19-29)

In other words, man is not responsible? To this question Paul presents 3 responses. Paul's three-fold response to the question uncovers the misunderstandings of God which the question implies.

A. God has the right of the potter over his clay, & we've no right to challenge Him (20-21).

B. God must _____ Himself as He is, making known His wrath & His glory (22-23).

C. God has foretold in Scripture both the inclusion of the Gentiles & the exclusion of Israel except for a _____ (24-29).

- 1) In verses 25-26 Paul quotes two texts from _____ to explain God's amazing inclusion of the Gentiles.

2:23 — I will plant her for myself in the land; I will show my love to the one I called 'Not my loved one.' I will say to those called 'Not my people,' 'You are my people'; and they will say, 'You are my God.' *[This verse is quoted in Rom. 9:25 and 1 Peter 2:10 and applied to Gentiles coming into the church.]*

1:10 — Yet the Israelites will be like the sand on the seashore, which cannot be measured or counted. In the place where it was said to them, 'You are not my people,' they will be called 'sons of the living God.' *[Again, like 2:23, this verse is cited in Rom. 9:25 and 1 Peter 2:10 and applied to the mission to the Gentiles].*

- 2) In verses 27-29 Paul quotes two texts from _____ to explain God's equally amazing reduction of Jewish inclusion (involvement) to a remnant.

10:22-23 — Though your people, O Israel, be like the sand by the sea, only a **remnant** will return. Destruction has been decreed, overwhelming and righteous. The Lord, the LORD Almighty, will carry out the destruction decreed upon the whole land. *["A remnant will return" was the name of Isaiah's firstborn son (7:3). A faithful remnant led by Hezekiah survived the Assyrian invasion of 701 B.C. Later, a remnant returned from Babylonian exile.]*

1:9 — Unless the LORD Almighty had left us some **survivors**, we would have become like Sodom, we would have been like Gomorrah. *[Isaiah often refers to the remnant that will survive God's judgment on the nation and take possession of the land (see 4:3; 10:2-23; 11:11, 16; 46:32)].*

4. Question #4: What, then, shall we say? (vss. 30-33)

The explanation of the church's composition (a Gentile majority and a Jewish remnant) is that the Gentiles believed in Jesus whereas the majority of Israel stumbled over him, the stone God had laid (30-33). And thus the acceptance of the Gentiles is attributed to the sovereign mercy of God, and the rejection of Israel to their rebellion.

- A. Paul begins with a _____ of the upside-down religious situation of his day (vss. 30, 31). The situation described is completely topsy-turvy.
- B. Paul continues with an _____ (vs. 32a). Israel did not attain righteousness 'cause, "they pursued it not by faith (which is how the Gentiles obtained it; vs. 30) but as if it were by works."
- C. Paul concludes with a biblical _____ (vs. 33). He brings two verses from Isaiah together (8:14; 28:16; compare 1 Peter 2:6, 8). God Himself has laid down a "rock" or "stone" (it's Jesus Christ). So everyone has to decide how to relate to this rock which God has laid down. There are only 2 possibilities. One is to put your trust in Him. The other is to take offense, reject, etc. and so stumble and fall over Him.