

Romans 9:1-33 **Righteousness by Faith – Not by works of the Law**

Paul's great self sacrificing Love for his people Israel – Advantage for Israel

¹ I tell the truth in Christ, I am not lying, my conscience also bearing me witness in the Holy Spirit, ² that I have great sorrow and continual grief in my heart. ³ For I could wish that I myself were accursed from Christ for my brethren, my countrymen according to the flesh, ⁴ who are Israelites, to whom pertain the adoption, the glory, the covenants, the giving of the law, the service of God, and the promises; ⁵ of whom are the fathers and from whom, according to the flesh, Christ came, who is over all, the eternally blessed God. Amen.

Not by man's choice, but God's promise

⁶ But it is not that the word of God has taken no effect. For they are not all Israel who are of Israel, ⁷ nor are they all children because they are the seed of Abraham; but, "In Isaac your seed shall be called." ⁸ That is, those who are the children of the flesh, these are not the children of God; but the children of the promise are counted as the seed.

⁹ For this is the word of promise: "At this time I will come and Sarah shall have a son." ¹⁰ And not only this, but when Rebecca also had conceived by one man, even by our father Isaac ¹¹ (for the children not yet being born, nor having done any good or evil, that the purpose of God according to election might stand, not of works but of Him who calls), ¹² it was said to her, "The older shall serve the younger." ¹³ As it is written, "Jacob I have loved, but Esau I have hated."

God's choice to show mercy

¹⁴ What shall we say then? Is there unrighteousness with God? Certainly not! ¹⁵ For He says to Moses, "I will have mercy on whomever I will have mercy, and I will have compassion on whomever I will have compassion." ¹⁶ So then it is not of him who wills, nor of him who runs, but of God who shows mercy.

Example of Pharaoh

¹⁷ For the Scripture says to Pharaoh, "For this very purpose I have raised you up, that I may show My power in you, and that My name may be declared in all the earth." ¹⁸ Therefore He has mercy on whom He wills, and whom He wills He hardens.

The creature has no right to challenge the Creator – God's purpose

¹⁹ You will say to me then, "Why does He still find fault? For who has resisted His will?" ²⁰ But indeed, O man, who are you to reply against God? Will the thing formed say to him who formed it, "Why have you made me like this?" ²¹ Does not the potter have power over the clay, from the same lump to make one vessel for honor and another for dishonor? ²² What if God, wanting to show His wrath and to make His power known, endured with much longsuffering the vessels of wrath prepared for destruction, ²³ and that He might make known the riches of His glory on the vessels of mercy, which He had prepared beforehand for glory, ²⁴ even us whom He called, not of the Jews only, but also of the Gentiles?

Examples in messages to Prophets

²⁵ As He says also in Hosea:

"I will call them My people, who were not My people, And her beloved, who was not beloved." ²⁶ "And it shall come to pass in the place where it was said to them, 'You are not My people, There they shall be called sons of the living God.'"

27 Isaiah also cries out concerning Israel:

"Though the number of the children of Israel be as the sand of the sea, The remnant will be saved. 28 For He will finish the work and cut it short in righteousness, Because the LORD will make a short work upon the earth."

29 And as Isaiah said before:

"Unless the LORD of Sabaoth had left us a seed, We would have become like Sodom, and we would have been made like Gomorrah."

Conclusion

30 What shall we say then? That Gentiles, who did not pursue righteousness, have attained to righteousness, even the righteousness of faith; 31 but Israel, pursuing the law of righteousness, has not attained to the law of righteousness. 32 Why? Because they did not seek it by faith, but as it were, by the works of the law. For they stumbled at that stumbling stone.

33 As it is written:

"Behold, I lay in Zion a stumbling stone and rock of offense, And whoever believes on Him will not be put to shame."

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Facts Revealed:

Paul's great self sacrificing Love for his people Israel – Advantage for Israel [Romans 9:1-5]

- ✚ Paul's great love for the Jewish people has been demonstrated, from the time of his encounter with the risen Lord Jesus on the road to Damascus with letters of authority from the High Priest authorizing him to arrest any Christians he should find and bring them to Jerusalem for trial and execution, to the end of his life. [Acts 9:1 through 28:31]
- ✧ The only cities in which Paul stopped to preach the Gospel message on his travels through Gentile lands were cities where Jewish Synagogues or places of worship were located.
- ✧ Paul always preached to the Jews first and then to the Gentiles.
- ✧ All the persecution against Paul originated from Jewish leadership, and still he continued to preach to them first.
- ✧ Now as he writes to the Romans, he expresses his love for the Jews to the extent he would be willing to be accursed from Christ if it might mean the salvation of the Jews.
- ✧ Paul's heart was heavy with great sorrow and grief over the rejection from the Jews.

Advantage for Israel

- ✧ The Jews have great advantage over the Gentiles, because they are Israelites to whom God has first offered adoption, the glory, the covenants, the Law, the service to God, and the promises through the fathers Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob and the prophets that followed, and through whom came **Jesus Christ Who is over all, the eternally blessed God**. Amen.
- ✧ Jesus is clearly identified as **the eternally blessed God**. [Romans 9:5]
 - ✧ Jesus was identified by the angel to the shepherds as Messiah Yahweh (Christ the Lord). [Luke 2:11]
 - ✧ Isaiah identified Jesus as El Gibowr (Mighty God). [Isaiah 9:6]
- ✧ Jesus came to earth in the flesh through the line of the Children of Israel.

Not by man's choice, but God's promise

 [Romans 9:6-13]

- ✚ Jews rejection of Jesus and the Gospel message does not make the Word of God ineffective.
- ✧ God does not count the Elect Saints as Children of God based on their blood line from Abraham as Ishmael and the sons of Keturah, but based on faith in the promise of God as with Isaac the son of promise. [Genesis 17:18-21]

- ✧ The examples Paul offers are those of Sarah whose son was Isaac, as well as Rebecca who gave birth to Jacob and Esau with God's words, Jacob I loved, but Esau I hated. [Romans 9:13, Malachi 1:2-3]

God's choice to show mercy

- ✧ God is not unrighteous. [Romans 9:14-16]
- ✧ God is the one who decides to show mercy and compassion and on whom He so bestows.
 - ✧ Paul illustrates the concept by referring to God's words to Moses. [Exodus 33:19]
 - ✧ It is not our choice, but God Who shows mercy.
 - ✧ With the Law, God has made us all worthy of eternal destruction, so He may show mercy on those who believe His promise of Salvation. [Mark 9:23, 14:14-16, Luke 8:12, John 1:12, 3:17-18, 36, 17:20, Romans 3:21-26, 4:1-25, 1 Corinthians 1:20-21, Galatians 3:22, Hebrews 10:39, 11:6]

Example of Pharaoh

- ✧ Paul uses the example of Pharaoh to illustrate the purpose and sovereign choice of God in the affairs of mankind by God's own words to Pharaoh.
 - ✧ "For this very purpose I have raised you up, that I may show My power in you, and that My name may be declared in all the earth." [Romans 9:17, Exodus 9:16]
 - ✧ Paul's conclusion is that God has mercy on whom He so wills, and God hardens whom He wills. [Romans 9:18]

The creature has no right to challenge the Creator – God's purpose [Romans 9:19-24]

- ✧ We who are created have no right to question the purpose and will of God the creator.
 - ✧ God has chosen to show His wrath on the unbelievers to demonstrate His power to those who believe, so we may know God's longsuffering and the riches of His glory.
 - ✧ God not only called believing Jews to Salvation, but also believing Gentiles as well

Examples in messages to Prophets

25 As He says also in Hosea: [Romans 9:25-26, Hosea 1:10, 2:23]

"I will call them My people, who were not My people, And her beloved, who was not beloved." 26 "And it shall come to pass in the place where it was said to them, 'You are not My people, There they shall be called sons of the living God.'"

27 Isaiah also cries out concerning Israel: [Romans 9:27-28, Isaiah 10:21-22]

"Though the number of the children of Israel be as the sand of the sea, The remnant will be saved. 28 For He will finish the work and cut it short in righteousness, Because the LORD will make a short work upon the earth."

29 And as Isaiah said before: [Romans 9:29, Isaiah 1:9]

"Unless the LORD of Sabaoth had left us a seed, We would have become like Sodom, and we would have been made like Gomorrah."

Conclusion [Romans 9:30-32]

- ✧ The Gentiles attained righteousness of faith.
- ✧ Israel did not attain righteousness, because they were seeking to attain it through works based on traditions built from the Law, and not by faith.
 - ✧ Israel stumbled at the stumbling stone of faith.

33 As it is written:

"Behold, I lay in Zion a stumbling stone and rock of offense, And whoever believes on Him (Jesus) will not be put to shame." [Romans 9:33]