

Romans 9

Verse by Verse



Previously in Romans

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- Paul began by showing us that all are condemned and in need of a Savior.
- Those who live immoral lives and those who live moral lives – no one can save themselves.
- The religious and the non-religious both need Jesus.
- The Jew (who believed in the true God) and the pagan (who did not) both need to come to faith in Christ.

Romans 9 Introduction

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- The church started out heavily Jewish but had now become heavily Gentile.
- It turns out this is fully consistent with the Old Testament, though God has not given up on the Jews.
- Paul now begins a section working through these Jew/Gentile issues.
- This brings up the topic of **election**, meaning God's decision of who shall be saved and how that happens.

Romans 9 Key Verse

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- Romans 9:14 (ESV)

What shall we say then? Is there injustice on God's part? By no means!

Romans 9 Outline

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1. Paul's Love for Israel 9:1-5
2. Evidence of Election 9:6-13
3. God Is Still Just 9:14-18
4. The Potter and the Clay 9:19-24
5. The Gentiles Included 9:25-29
(9:30-33 with Romans 10)

1. Paul's Love for Israel 9:1-5

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- Paul sounds a lot like Moses in Exodus 32.
- After Israel sinned by worshiping a golden calf, Moses interceded for the people.

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- Exodus 32:30-32

³⁰ The next day Moses said to the people, "You have sinned a great sin. And now I will go up to the Lord; perhaps I can make atonement for your sin." ³¹ So Moses returned to the Lord and said, "Alas, this people has sinned a great sin. They have made for themselves gods of gold. ³² But now, if you will forgive their sin—but if not, please blot me out of your book that you have written."

1. Paul's Love for Israel 9:1-5

- God did not allow Moses to die for the people.
- That would have to wait until Christ.
- God did hold back from destroying the people
- He dealt with those individuals who sinned, but held fast to his faithful, covenant love for the nation.

1. Paul's Love for Israel 9:1-5

- We must admire the concern that both Moses and Paul had for the lost – those in rebellion against God.
- Maybe our prayers for the lost would be more effective if we had more of this concern.
- We cannot die for them as Christ did, but we can long more intensely to see people saved.

2. Evidence of Election 9:6-13

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- God originally made his covenant with **Abraham**.
- He continued that covenant with **Isaac** and **Jacob**, but not with **Ishmael** or with **Esau**.
- The idea of election – of God's choosing – is clearest in the case of **Jacob** and **Esau** who were twins.

2. Evidence of Election 9:6-13

- The terms **love** and **hate** have a little different sense coming out of Hebrew language and culture.
- They include a stronger sense of **choose** and **reject** and less of our emotional sense of love and hate.

2. Evidence of Election 9:6-13

- Luke 14:26 (ESV)

If anyone comes to me and does not hate his own father and mother and wife and children and brothers and sisters, yes, and even his own life, he cannot be my disciple.

- Christ's point is that we must choose him over anyone else, even family or our very own lives.

2. Evidence of Election 9:6-13

- Back to Paul's point with **Jacob** and **Esau**.
- **Esau** had his problems. He was driven more by base bodily instincts than spiritual things.
- On the other hand, **Jacob** had issues too.
- His lying, conniving and manipulative ways are not exactly virtues that merit God's election.

2. Evidence of Election 9:6-13

- This is where grace and election start to make sense.
- Can we argue with not choosing Esau? He was in fact a sinful, carnal sort of person.
- But do we really want to argue with God choosing Jacob instead?

2. Evidence of Election 9:6-13

- I kind of like the fact that God is biased toward hopeless, unworthy sinners – like Jacob and like me.
- One issue we must face with election is that everyone God saves could just as easily have been lost.
- That means people like us.

3. God Is Still Just 9:14-18

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- Just think for a minute.
 - No matter how badly we wanted to be saved,
 - No matter how hard we tried to do good,
 - We have all still sinned against God.
 - Thankfully, he has taken care of our sin, allowing us to be forgiven.

3. God Is Still Just 9:14-18

- Just think a little more.
 - **Pharaoh** was obviously evil and selfish and persecuted the people of God.
 - He deserved God's wrath.
 - But what about **Paul**?

3. God Is Still Just 9:14-18

- 1 Timothy 1:15-16 (ESV)

¹⁵ The saying is trustworthy and deserving of full acceptance, that Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners, of whom I am the foremost. ¹⁶ But I received mercy for this reason, that in me, as the foremost, Jesus Christ might display his perfect patience as an example to those who were to believe in him for eternal life.

4. The Potter and the Clay 9:19-24

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- God has the final say in all things.
- Still, there is no adequate view of God's election that rules out our need to **repent and believe**.
- This is clear in **Jeremiah**, where the same picture of the potter and clay is used by that prophet.

4. The Potter and the Clay 9:19-24

- **Jeremiah 18:1-11** (ESV)

The word that came to Jeremiah from the Lord: ² “Arise, and go down to the potter's house, and there I will let you hear my words.” ³ So I went down to the potter's house, and there he was working at his wheel. ⁴ And the vessel he was making of clay was spoiled in the potter's hand, and he reworked it into another vessel, as it seemed good to the potter to do ...

4. The Potter and the Clay 9:19-24

- **Jeremiah 18:1-11** (ESV)

... ⁵ Then the word of the Lord came to me: ⁶ “O house of Israel, can I not do with you as this potter has done? declares the Lord. Behold, like the clay in the potter's hand, so are you in my hand, O house of Israel. ⁷ If at any time I declare concerning a nation or a kingdom, that I will pluck up and break down and destroy it, ...

4. The Potter and the Clay 9:19-24

- **Jeremiah 18:1-11** (ESV)

... ⁸ and if that nation, concerning which I have spoken, turns from its evil, I will relent of the disaster that I intended to do to it. ⁹ And if at any time I declare concerning a nation or a kingdom that I will build and plant it, ¹⁰ and if it does evil in my sight, not listening to my voice, then I will relent of the good that I had intended to do to it ...

4. The Potter and the Clay 9:19-24

- Jeremiah 18:1-11 (ESV)

... ¹¹ Now, therefore, say to the men of Judah and the inhabitants of Jerusalem: ‘Thus says the Lord, Behold, I am shaping disaster against you and devising a plan against you. Return, every one from his evil way, and amend your ways and your deeds.’”

4. The Potter and the Clay 9:19-24

- God's choosing of us and our responding to his call to repent and believe work together.
- No one is allowed to rest on God's election as an excuse to continue in sin and/or reject Christ.
- But also, we need not fear that God will reject us if we turn to Christ in faith with a humble heart.
- God has freely chosen to save unworthy sinners.

5. The Gentiles Included 9:25-29

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- Here Paul shows that God's inclusion of the Gentiles as his people was always part of God's plan.
- Many Gentiles accept Jesus, the Jewish Savior.
- Many Jews reject him, though some believe.
- In the end, those who are saved are saved by grace.

5. The Gentiles Included 9:25-29

- Next week, we will look at Romans 9:30 - 10:21, that is, to the end of Chapter 10.

Romans 9 What We Just Read

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Romans 9 Key Points

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1. We should imitate the concern that Paul had for the lost – for those in rebellion against God.
2. We should respect, rather than question, God's choices. There is no injustice in him.
3. We should be thankful that God has chosen to save sinners, because otherwise we could not be saved.
4. Our eternity rests on God's faithfulness and Christ's work – not our ability to “stay saved.”

Romans 9 Key Points

5. If you choose to take a firm view on the interplay of personal faith and election, keep this in mind:
 - a) We are only saved if we genuinely repent and believe in Jesus Christ's saving work for us.
 - b) If we genuinely repent and believe, then we know we are among the elect.
6. Remember to treat those who hold a different view with all the respect that you want from them.

Romans 9 A Prayer

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- Heavenly Father,
- We thank you for the salvation you have made available to us in Jesus Christ.
- Thank you for being a God of grace.
- Please help us to always remember that there is no unrighteousness or injustice in you. You are a gracious and merciful God.

Romans 9 A Prayer

- We ask that you give us a greater concern for the lost, praying and doing whatever we can from our side to make sure that everyone gets a chance to hear the gospel and believe.
- Please give us the privilege of seeing many saved.
- In Christ,
- Amen

Romans 9 References

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