

## Justified by Faith Reconciled with the Promises Made to Israel – Part 1

### Romans 9

- Paul has not been to R when he writes, in Acts 20:2-3. He makes it there ~4yrs later
- Church comprised of Jewish Christians & Gentile Christians – clash of cultures now one in Christ
- Ch. 1-8 viewed as “Doctrinal” & Ch. 9-16 viewed as “Practical”

#### 1. Paul’s Sorrow for Unbelieving Jews – Romans 9:1-5

- 1: standing in the presence of the Godhead to hold him accountable
- 2: the fact that Jews rejected Jesus caused P sorrow and grief
- 3: accused – *anathema* – a person excluded from God’s people and under sentence of damnation [Douglas J. Moo]
- 4,5: switch from Jews to Israelites; gives list of Jewish blessings
- Adoption – emphasis on God chose us!
- P considered the possession of the oracles (revelation of God) as the Jews’ greatest possession

#### 2. God’s Sovereignty – Romans 9:6-13

- 6: thesis for Ch. 9-11 > P a friend, not a foe
- 7: not enough to be a physical descendant of A; A had many children yet only one chosen
- 8: children of the flesh: Ishmael (Arabs), Isaac [Esau] Edomites; Keturah’s (Midianites, etc.)
- 9: God’s choices are always right
- 10-12: younger over older [10x in Scripture]
- 13: Malachi 1:2-3; hate – love less

#### 3. The Futility of Blaming God – Romans 9:14-29

- God’s choices are consistent with His practice [14-18], person [19-21], and purpose [22-29]
- 14: “was it fair to reject the unbelieving Jews and accept believing Gentiles?” [*yes*]
- 15: Ex. 33:19; “I will decide who will receive My mercy & compassion.”
- 16: man doing all he can to win the race; doesn’t depend on man but God.
- 17: between plagues 6 [boils] & 7 [locusts] > message to Pharaoh, Ex. P:16
- 18: God always accepted some and rejected some
- 19: objector not a Jew

- 20,21: contrast man & God; potter & clay: Isa. 29:16; 45:9; 64:8; Jer. 18:6; the clay has no right to argue with the potter
  - 22-24 one sentence in Greek
  - 22: power of God demonstrated – 1:18; “Does this not demonstrate how fair God is?”
  - 23,24: God was patient with the lost to show how abundantly “rich” His mercy could be
  - 25,26: Hosea 2:23, 1:10; backsliding Jews; it is possible for those who are not God’s people to become God’s people
  - 27,28: Gen. 22:17; Isa. 10:22-23; remnant key word
  - Sad – only a few would be saved
  - Glad: some would be saved
  - 29: Isa. 1:9 – period of peril for Judah & Jerusalem; Assyrians invaded the land
4. Salvation by Faith, Not by Works – Romans 9:30-33
- Who is to blame for God’s rejecting most of the Jews?
  - 30: shift: God’s sovereignty to man’s responsibility; pursue: GK: *earnest striving*
  - 31: Jews were striving to actively attain righteousness > NASB “did not arrive” at their destination
  - 32: Jews insulted when Gospel was preached; an insinuation that they were sinners in need of salvation; stumbling: GK: *to strike against*
  - 33: Isa. 28:16 combines with Isa. 8:14; offense: GK: scandal, scandalous; not be disappointed: GK: lit. being put to shame on the day of Judgment when one is rejected by the Lord – Mt. 10:32-33

Lessons:

1. Even though chapter nine deals with a problem that is not occurring today, it still presents Biblical truths that we can learn from – John 8:32; Romans 15:4.
2. God has always been fair in His decision-making process. We should be thankful for this – it means He always makes righteous judgments.
3. There is no one to blame for our approval or disapproval in God’s eyes but ourselves. God has given us our standards by which we will be judged – John 12:48.

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PowerPoint №. 124 accompanies this lesson, online

March 10, 2021 PM Wood Church of Christ – Facebook