

## Sunday Night Direction

### Romans Study

Tonight we are going to be continuing our study through the book of Romans.

Let's look **chapter 9:1-5**

- Paul begins speaking about the Israelites and his passion and love for his people.

- This may seem like an interruption from the flow of **Romans 6-8**. After establishing the freedom we have in Christ, you would think Paul would move to the practical duties of the believer in **Romans 12-15**.

- Paul was considered a traitor to the Jewish nation, ministering to Gentiles and encouraging people to flee the law.

- Paul had a similar heart as Moses for the people of God, Paul was willing to be accursed (separated from Christ) if it meant his people would be saved. Moses said something very similar in **Exodus 32:30-35** after the people sinned before God.

- God's Faithfulness – **Vs. 6-13**

- Paul reminds the Jews of God's faithfulness to them in and through the Old Testament.

- "Taken none effect" means "fallen to the ground" or failed.

- "Not all Israel, which are Israel" basically means that it's not only Abraham's physical descendants, but also his spiritual descendants through the work of Christ.

- Ref. **Romans 2:28-29**

- "Jacob have I loved and Esau have I hated"

- That statement has caused much debate among the church. Is God saying that he hates Esau and hated him before he was born?

- Some suggest this is evidence God chooses one group for Heaven and another for Hell based solely on his own choice.

- Another view is that this is not speaking to individual election but national election.

- **Romans 9:13** is a reference to **Malachi 1:2-5** and refers to nations

- Jacob – Israel & Esau – Edom

- God's Righteousness – Vs. 14-18

- God is completely within his rights and authority as creator God to show mercy to whomever he chooses.

- If God decides to only show mercy to this or that group, he is not unrighteous, because he is God. We are the sinners that are unable to expect anything from him but judgment.

- God's Justice – Vs. 19-29

- Paul makes three key points in this chapter:

- We need to understand who we are – Vs. 19-21

- God is the potter and we are the clay! We are foolish to question his will. (Ref. Isa. 45:9)

- We need to understand God has his purposes – Vs. 22-24

- The word "fitted" in verse 22 does not mean that God made pharaoh a vessel of wrath. In the Greek the word carries the idea of "fitted himself for destruction."

- We need to understand all of this was prophesied – Vs. 25-29

- Paul cites a couple Old Testament quotes in this section:

- Hosea 1:10; 2:23; Isaiah 1:9; 10:22-23

- The basic idea is that the Jews have known that only a remnant of the Jews would actually be saved. It is the remnant of Jews and the believing gentiles are the "called of God."

- God's Grace – Vs. 30-33

- The gospel offered to the Jews! - Notice Paul's emphasis is on faith!

- Paul references Isaiah 28:16 in regards to Christ being the foundation stone which actually caused the Jews to stumble and fall.

**Conclusion:**

In this chapter we see a mystery between divine sovereignty and human responsibility. However, when we understand that all of humanity carries the responsibility of receiving or rejecting Christ, it becomes clear that we have a mission to make Christ known to all people everywhere!