

Romans – The Crown Jewel of Salvation

44 - The Electing Love of God

Rom. 9:1-18

Grace Fellowship Church / Pastor Peter LaRuffa / February 22, 2015

1. You need to have heartfelt EMPATHY for those who reject Jesus Christ.

Rom. 9:1-3 ¹ I am speaking the truth in Christ—I am not lying; my conscience bears me witness in the Holy Spirit— ² **that I have great sorrow and unceasing anguish in my heart.** ³ For I could wish that I myself were accursed and cut off from Christ for the sake of my brothers, my kinsmen according to the flesh.

“At the same time, you need to know that I carry with me at all times a huge sorrow. It’s an enormous pain deep within me, and I’m never free of it. I’m not exaggerating—Christ and the Holy Spirit are my witnesses. It’s the Israelites ... If there were any way I could be cursed by the Messiah so they could be blessed by him, I’d do it in a minute. They’re my family. I grew up with them. They had everything going for them—family, glory, covenants, revelation, worship, promises, to say nothing of being the race that produced the Messiah, the Christ, who is God over everything, always. Oh, yes!”

Peterson, E. H. (2005). *The Message: the Bible in contemporary language* (Ro 9). Colorado Springs, CO: NavPress.

Psa. 119:136 My eyes shed streams of tears, because people do not keep your law.

Jer. 13:15-17 ¹⁵ Hear and give ear; be not proud, for the LORD has spoken. ¹⁶ Give glory to the LORD your God before he brings darkness, before your feet stumble on the twilight mountains, and while you look for light he turns it into gloom and makes it deep darkness. ¹⁷ But if you will not listen, **my soul will weep in secret for your pride; my eyes will weep bitterly and run down with tears, because the LORD’s flock has been taken captive.**

Even Jesus Himself—knowing all things, including who would believe Him, reject Him, and seek to kill him—had compassion on the lost in Jerusalem.

Matt. 23:37 “O Jerusalem, Jerusalem, the city that kills the prophets and stones those who are sent to it! **How often would I have gathered your children together as a hen gathers her brood under her wings, and you were not willing!**”

What about you? Do you have great sorrow in your heart for those that are lost?

2. Even though many reject the Gospel and are lost, God’s Word is still EFFECTIVE!

Rom. 9:6,7a ⁶ But it is not as though the word of God has failed. For not all who are descended from Israel belong to Israel, ⁷ and not all are children of Abraham because they are his offspring...

Rom. 2:11 For God shows no partiality.

Rom. 4:16 That is why it depends on faith, in order that the promise may rest on grace and be guaranteed to all his offspring—not only to the adherent of the law **but also to the one who shares the faith of Abraham, who is the father of us all,**

Gal. 3:29 And if you are Christ's, then you are Abraham's offspring, heirs according to promise.

3. It's God's sovereign, saving grace at work upon His ELECT that brings about salvation in His people!

Although both Isaac & Ishmael were physical descendants of Abraham, only Isaac and his offspring are considered true descendants and recipients of the promises God made to him.

Rom. 9:7b,8 ⁷ and not all are children of Abraham because they are his offspring, but **“Through Isaac shall your offspring be named.”** ⁸ This means that it is not the children of the flesh who are the children of God, but the children of the promise are counted as offspring. ⁹ For this is what the promise said: “About this time next year I will return, and Sarah shall have a son.”

Rom. 9:10-13 ¹⁰ And not only so, but also when Rebekah had conceived children by one man, our forefather Isaac, ¹¹ though they were not yet born and had done nothing either good or bad—in order that God's purpose of election might continue, not because of works but because of him who calls— ¹² she was told, “The older will serve the younger.” ¹³ As it is written, “Jacob I loved, but Esau I hated.”

4. Our sinful human nature tends to respond to election with 3 common ERRORS:

a. “We've EARNED it!”

Rom. 3:23 for **all have sinned and fall short** of the glory of God

b. “We're ENTITLED to it!”

Rom. 6:23 For the wages of sin is death, but **the free gift of God** is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.

c. “We should be treated EQUALLY!”

Rom. 9:15 ⁵ For he says to Moses, “I will have mercy on whom I have mercy, and I will have compassion on whom I have compassion.”

5. Understanding the doctrine of election should bring about fervor for EVANGELISM among us...because God is at work among His elect!

Rom.10:13-15³ For “everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved.” ¹⁴ How then will they call on him in whom they have not believed? **And how are they to believe in him of whom they have never heard?** And how are they to hear without someone preaching? ¹⁵ And how are they to preach unless they are sent?

We can have **confidence** to speak of Christ, because **God** has prepared **His people** to respond to **His truth** in **His good time**. We do the speaking, and God does the saving!

Questions for Personal Reflection and/or Small Group Discussion:

1. If you had brothers or sisters growing up, did you feel your parents treated you equally, or did one get special treatment?
2. In Rom. 9:3, Paul uses strong, emotional language to express how he longs for the lost to be saved.
 - a. Does that resonate with you? If so, what person(s) do you long to see come to love Jesus?
 - b. What person(s) did you used to long to see come to love Jesus, but perhaps have given up on?
 - c. Take a moment to pray. Humbly & gratefully remember the “Damascus road” in your life when God graciously saved you. Ask God to do that same thing for him/her/them for His glory.
3. In Rom. 9:14-18, Paul anticipates questions/objections his readers would have, and seeks to answer them. Does this answer your question/objection? If not, what others do you have?
4. Read Eph. 1:3-6. Knowing salvation was an act of God from start to finish, even before you were born, in what way does that stir your heart & mind? How does that make you feel, and what do you think?
5. Knowing God is at work in the hearts & minds of His elect—that they will respond to the Gospel—does this increase your courage & confidence to share the good news of Jesus Christ with others? Why or why not?