

**LESSONS THIS QUARTER**

- 1) 04 Sept.....Romans 1:1-17..... Good News To Tell
- 2) 11 Sept.....Romans 1:18-3:26..... Good News to Hear
- 3) 18 Sept.....Romans 3:27-4:25..... Good News to Believe
- 4) 25 Sept.....Romans 5:1-21..... It's All About Grace
- 5) 02 Oct.....Romans 6:1-23..... It's All About New Life
- 6) 09 Oct.....Romans 7:1-25..... It's All About Victory
- 7) 16 Oct.....Romans 8:1-39..... It's All About Certainty
- 8) **23 Oct.....Romans 9:1-11:36..... It's All About God's Plan**
- 9) 30 Oct.....Romans 12:1-21..... Does Your Life Please God
- 10) 06 Nov.....Romans 13:1-14..... Can You Be Counted On
- 11) 13 Nov.....Romans 14:1-12..... Do You Respect Others
- 12) 20 Nov.....Romans 14:13-23..... Do You Strive for Peace with Others
- 13) 27 Nov.....Romans 15:1—16:27..... Does Your Life Speak Well of God?

**INTRODUCTION**

- In these 3 chapters Paul continues his argument of who can receive God's grace of eternal life and who won't (not who can't)
- We will also see God grafting in Gentiles; saving only the remnant who believe; hardening the rest; shutting up all in disobedience; and showing mercy to all

Passage	Comments
Romans 9:1	<p><b>Our Conscience Tells Us What Is Right – Right?</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• v1. Paul invoked his conscience as bearing testimony to his true feelings, but there was a time when his conscience was 180° out of what it should have been                             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>♦ Paul use to think he was doing God a favor by persecuting believers..... John 16:2</li> <li>♦ <b>What turned Paul's (or anyone's) conscience around to be sensitive to God's leading?</b></li> <li>♦ The word for conscience (lit. joint-knowledge) is only used in the NT. The conscience is our God-given faculty to know or discern good and evil (Gen 3:22)</li> <li>♦ However, one's conscience could be weak (1Cor 8:12) or defiled (Titus 1:15) or evil (Heb 10:22); or shipwrecked (1Tim 1:19) or seared (1Tim 4:2)</li> <li>♦ To be sensitive to the Lord's leading, we need to exercise our conscience in righteousness to develop a good conscience (Heb 13:18), a pure conscience (1Tim 3:9), purged from sin &amp; dead works (Heb 9:14)</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
9:2,3	<p><b>Paul's Love for His Jewish Brethren</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Paul wished it was possible for him to spend eternity in Hell instead of his Jewish kinsmen</li> <li>• Do we have that kind of love for our friends &amp; family? - If we did, we would be like Paul who took time to witness to anyone and everyone</li> </ul>
9:6-8	<p><b>Stark Revelation – Not All Israel are Israel</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• This realization was a shock to the Jews that neither their Jewish lineage nor circumcision earned them entrance into Heaven</li> <li>• Children of God are not those from a bloodline or by works, but those who proceed from a promise of God</li> <li>• Those who proceed from Isaac, the promised son of Abraham, are God's children – vessels of honor</li> </ul>
9:9-24	<p><b>God has Mercy on Whom He Chooses</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• v13. God chose to love Jacob and hate Esau</li> <li>• v16. God will have mercy on whom he has mercy</li> <li>• v18. God hardens whom He desires</li> <li>• v21. The Potter (God) has the right to make some vessels honorable and other vessels dishonorable</li> <li>• v23. Some are prepared for destruction .. Proverbs 16:4</li> <li>• v24. ...and others are 'prepared beforehand for glory'</li> </ul>

Passage	Comments
What Does All This Mean?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Do people even have a choice to serve God or not?</li> <li>• Why should we witness or pray or work or even die for the lost if God is going to save whom He wants?</li> </ul> <p><b>This Is Where The Sovereignty Of God Comes In</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• God gives people the ability to choose; God commands us to witness; God commands us to pray; and, yes, to even give our lives for the lost just as His Son did</li> <li>• ...and God, being so sovereign, works His will through our choices, our prayers, and our blood, sweat and tears to save the unsaveable – including us!</li> </ul>
9:25-33	<p><b>Gentiles Should be Grateful to Israel</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Paul is not finished with his line of reasoning of why many Jews missed out on the Messiah</li> <li>• Yes, God has mercy on whom He has mercy; and Yes, God loved Jacob and hated Esau; and Yes, God hardens whom He desires – all hard-core Bible truths</li> <li>• ...and yet God provides substantiating considerations for sealing the fate of the wicked                             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>♦ v32. Many Israelites willfully refused to pursue God by faith (also see Nehemiah 9:17)</li> <li>♦ Heb 12:16. Esau was willfully immoral and godless</li> <li>♦ Jer 19:15. God brings calamity on those who willfully harden themselves against obeying His word ...1Pet 2:8</li> </ul> </li> <li>• <b>But God leaves the door open for ALL to repent</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>♦ John 5:40. Jesus told the Jews (those who were 'not all Israel') He was willing to give them eternal life if they were willing to come to Him</li> <li>♦ Even wicked kings Nebuchadnezzar, Manasseh and Ahab, received reprieves from destruction by humbling themselves before God (Daniel 4:37; 2Chron 33:11-13; 1Kings 21:27-29 respectively)</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
Romans 10:1-7	<p><b>It is OK to Pray for People to Get Saved</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• v1. Paul prayed to God for his kinsmen to get saved</li> <li>• Biblically, God uses our prayers to accomplish His will</li> <li>• As we saw in chap 7, we are to bear fruit, and the best fruit according to John 15:7-8 is answered prayer</li> <li>• vv3-4. Paul blames the Jews for not willfully submitting themselves to God's righteousness in Christ</li> </ul>
10:8-13	<p><b>God Made Getting Saved Very Easy</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• vv9-10. 'Confess with our mouths and believe in our hearts' conveys willfully accepting Christ as our Lord</li> <li>• v12. The Lord "is rich unto ALL that call upon Him" - another passage that God's salvation is open to ALL</li> <li>• v13. "Whosoever shall call on Christ shall be saved! – It's open to everyone, anyone, ALL</li> </ul>
When Does "ALL" mean "ALL"	<p><b>Does ALL Always Mean Everyone Or Many Or Some?</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• In ALL cases, the meaning of ALL is context-dependent</li> <li>• For example, <b>Romans 3:9</b> "...for we have before proved both Jews and Gentiles are ALL under sin" - In this case, ALL means everyone – Jew &amp; Gentile, elect and non-elect, male and female, young and old</li> <li>• <b>Rom 3:19,23</b>, "...and ALL the world may become guilty" for "all have sinned" – ALL means everyone</li> <li>• <b>Rom 5:18</b> By one transgression there resulted condemnation to ALL, even so through one act of righteousness (by Christ) there resulted justification of life to ALL. (Eternal Life is made available to everyone)</li> <li>• <b>Rom 10:12</b> "...the same Lord over ALL (everyone) is rich unto ALL that call upon him (now it gets selective)</li> </ul>

Passage	Comments
10:14-15	<p><b>Preaching Christ Brings Salvation</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Some Christians believe in dispensational salvation – that is, there are different ways to get saved depending on when someone lived in history</li> <li>In reality, people come to God by only one means, through Christ, even if they lived in the pre-flood era, or during the Millennial reign of Christ ..... John 14:6</li> <li>In brief, Old Testament saints looked forward to the cross by faith (Hebrews 11), and New Testament saints look back on the cross, again by faith</li> <li>In both the Old and New Testaments “the just shall live by faith” ..... Habakkuk 2:4 and Romans 1:17</li> </ul>
10:16-21	<p><b>Many in Israel Missed Out Due to Willful Unbelief</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>v16. “But they have not all obeyed the Gospel”</li> <li>v18. “Have they not heard? Yes, they heard!”</li> <li>v21. God stretched His hands continuously to a disobedient people – what more could God do?</li> </ul>
Romans 11:1-10	<p><b>A Remnant Chosen by Grace, Not By Works</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>vv5-7. God’s grace allowed a remnant of Jews to obtain salvation – and the rest were hardened                     <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Recall the reason Jesus spoke to the Jews in parables – “For this people’s heart is waxed gross, and their ears are dull of hearing, and their eyes they have closed; lest at any time they should see, ...hear, ... and should understand,... and should be converted, and I should heal them” .....Mat 13:13-15</li> <li>In brief, Jesus didn’t and doesn’t force anyone to believe in Him, and thereby receive the privilege to spend eternity in Heaven. We are ALL given sufficient information to make a choice for eternity</li> <li>Jesus draws everyone (puts eternity in men’s hearts, Ecc 3:11), selects those who want to live for Him, and hardens those who don’t want to live for Him</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
11:11-16	<p><b>Jealousy Can Be A Godly Tool</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>v11. God’s plan included saving Gentiles to provoke the Jews – by jealousy, to reconsider living for Him - God waits till the last minute before closing the door</li> </ul>
11:17-24	<p><b>Grafting in Gentiles</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>v20. The Jews (the non-remnant, those who were ‘not all Israel’) were broken off because of their willful unbelief – not because God didn’t want to save them</li> <li>v23. God keeps the door open for them – “if they do not continue in their unbelief” they will be grafted back in</li> <li>vv21-22. Some use this passage to show that one’s salvation can be lost (‘God won’t spare you either if you don’t continue in His kindness’), but please note the “natural” branches were those who “were not all Israel” – in other words, they were not saved themselves – So this discourse probably hit those within the church who were just pew-sitters, and not true believers</li> </ul>
11:25-32	<p><b>A Mystery Revealed – A Partial Hardening of the Jews until the Fullness of the Gentiles is Complete</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>v26. ALL Israel will be saved. Does this mean even Judas and Herod the Great who slaughtered children? Recall that Israel is divided into 2 camps – The Remnant (11:5) and those who are not ALL Israel (9:6). So, here, ALL Israel means ALL the remnant of Israel, those of the promised seed of Isaac, the honorable vessels prepared beforehand for glory</li> </ul>

Passage	Comments
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>v29. The gifts and calling of God are irrevocable – God is not an Indian-giver. He delivers on His promises – and God will not make a promise He cannot keep</li> <li>v32. God has shut up ALL in disobedience so He may show mercy to ALL – Recall that Paul is addressing 2 people groups as ALL (Gentiles &amp; Jews) – Mercy is extended to both people groups, but only those who believe out of those people groups will be saved and actually receive the mercy God extends . Galatians 3:22</li> </ul>
11:33-36	<p><b>Who Really Knows God &amp; His Intricate Plan for Man?</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>v33-34. God is unsearchable. His ways are not our ways, yet He is totally just and righteous in all His ways, and cannot be accused of doing any wrong</li> <li>v35. Or, who does God owe anything to? ..... Job 41:11                     <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Though, we were to live righteously, give everything to God, and even die a martyr’s death for Him, God owes us nothing – yet we owe Him everything</li> </ul> </li> <li>v36. God is the center of the universe – not you or me</li> </ul>

**CONCLUSION/APPLICATIONS**

- When all is said and done, God gets the glory for being sovereign over everything and everyone. That includes our salvation. He has made a place for those who made a place for Him in their hearts.
- Yes, by God’s sovereignty, He gave us the ability to choose eternal life with or without Him, and by His foreknowledge He chose us “beforehand”, that is from before the foundation of the world (Ephesians 1:4) – so we should live enthusiastically for Him

**NEXT WEEK: Romans 12.** We have numerous responsibilities God expects from us: Be transformed by renewing our minds; be kind to one another; think soberly of ourselves; use our God-given gifts; don’t be lazy; pray continuously; get off our high horse; live peaceably where possible; feed our enemies; and master evil in our lives

