

LESSON 19: ROMANS 9:1-29

What About the Jews?

1. Why do you think Paul is so adamant about his telling the truth in verse 1? What is this truth that he relates here (v. 2)? Why is this so (vv. 3-5)? How would you describe Paul's concern for the Jewish people? Given the suffering he endured at the hands of the Jews, what does Paul's concern for them reveal about his character as a Christian?
2. What spiritual heritage did the Jews enjoy? Describe each element of heritage: the adoption (see Deuteronomy 14:1-2; Exodus 4:22,23); the glory (see Exodus 16:7, 10; 40:34-35); the covenants (see Genesis 15:4-7; Exodus 24:1-4; 2 Samuel 23:1-5); the law; the worship; the promises; and the patriarchs (see Mark 11:10; Acts 2:29).
3. Why does Paul write in verse 6, "it is not as though the word of God failed"? Explain Paul's argument here. Given that the Jews as a nation have rejected Christ, how does Paul answer the question, "Did God's word fail?"
4. What foundational principle has characterized God's dealings with his people since the time of Abraham? What is the difference between the "children of the flesh" and the "children of the promise (v. 8)?"
5. When was Jacob chosen and Esau rejected to continue Abraham's lineage (vv. 10-13)? Why? How would you respond to the question, "How can you worship a God who is so arbitrary and capricious in choosing some and rejecting others?" What is God's "purpose" in election (v. 11)?
6. Does God's dealings with the Jews have any impact on your thinking about your own salvation in Christ?

God's Right to Choose

1. What is the basis for arguing that God is unjust (v. 14)? How does God answer this complaint? According to verse 15, what aspects of God's character direct his purpose and will? Does any person have a right to be chosen by God, or to receive his mercy (see also Romans 3:19-20, 23-24)? Why or why not?
2. Who are included in the "vessels of mercy" (v. 23)? Compare Romans 2:4 and 9:22. Why has God been treating the "vessels of wrath" with "patience, kindness, and forbearance?" What does this tell you about God's character?
3. How does Paul prove from the Old Testament that God has called some Gentiles and not all of the Jews (vv. 25-29)? Whom has God chosen, and for what purpose? Summarize your own understanding of what is taught in this section (vv. 14-29).