Romans 9

Romans 9

Eternal Life Is a Gift of God By His Will
Alone Without Regard for the Will
of Man or the Efforts of Man

When I Was 19 at BJU in 1976 ...

their syllabus for <u>New Testament Survey</u> that all students had to take got rid of Romans 9-11 with one sentence ... *these chapters are for Israel only.*

When I Was 20 in Michigan in 1977 …

a gruff PB preacher from Texas told me that Romans 9 was *"the Sifter."* Test any religion through this chapter and it would flunk.

Over the last near 50 years ...

I have seen Christian shock by plain proof here
of God's election to salvation without any
part by man and His sovereign purpose
in the damnation of sinners like a
Potter ruling over clay.

Over the last near 50 years ...

I have seen Romans 9 as a very good evangelistic tool by scripture only without much work for you.

Tonight, in the Spring of 2024 ...

This is one of the distinguishing chapters of the Bible we hold dear and do not modify to fit lying heresies of effeminate Christians.

Tonight, in the Spring of 2024 ...

This holy and sober doctrine is so different from most Christians today that we sound like Jeremiah compared to false prophets moaning peace to heal slightly.

6 Not as though the word of God hath taken none effect. For they are not all Israel, which are of Israel:
7 Neither, because they are the seed of Abraham, are they all children: but, In Isaac shall thy seed be called.
8 That is, They which are the children of the flesh, these are not the children of God: but the children of the promise are counted for the seed.
9 For this is the word of promise, At this time will I come, and Sara shall have a son.

Romans 9:6-9

10 And not only this; but when Rebecca also had conceived by one, even by our father Isaac;
11 (For the children being not yet born, neither having done any good or evil, that the purpose of God according to election might stand, not of works, but of him that calleth;)
12 It was said unto her, The elder shall serve the younger.
13 As it is written, Jacob have I loved, but Esau have I hated.

Romans 9:10-13

14 What shall we say then? Is there unrighteousness with God? God forbid.
15 For he saith to Moses, I will have mercy on whom I will have mercy, and I will have compassion on whom I will have compassion.
16 So then it is not of him that willeth, nor of him that runneth, but of God that sheweth mercy.
17 For the scripture saith unto Pharaoh, Even for this same purpose have I raised thee up, that I might shew my power in thee, and that my name might be declared throughout all the earth.

Romans 9:14-17

18 Therefore hath he mercy on whom he will have mercy, and whom he will he hardeneth.
19 Thou wilt say then unto me, Why doth he yet find fault? For who hath resisted his will?
20 Nay but, O man, who art thou that repliest against God? Shall the thing formed say to him that formed it, Why hast thou made me thus?
21 Hath not the potter power over the clay, of the same lump to make one vessel unto honour, and another unto dishonour?

Romans 9:18-21

22 What if God, willing to shew his wrath, and to make his power known, endured with much longsuffering the vessels of wrath fitted to destruction:
23 And that he might make known the riches of his glory on the vessels of mercy, which he had afore prepared unto glory,
24 Even us, whom he hath called, not of the Jews only, but also of the Gentiles?

Romans 9:22-24

6 Not as though the word of God hath taken none effect. For they are not all Israel, which are of Israel:

- Paul wrote of grief for Jews by God's salvation promises to them (9:1-5).
- God's spiritual promises had taken effect ... Messiah had come and saved.
- Paul's grief was for elect within the nation, which were yet blind (10:1).
- Not all of national Israel was elect ... so evidence of salvation was rare.
- God's promise of eternal life was not promised to all Israel (Is 6:9-13).

7 Neither, because they are the seed of Abraham, are they all children: but, In Isaac shall thy seed be called.

- Election in Israel was hard for Jews to hear … so he showed it in Abraham.
- Abraham had 8 sons by 3 wives – Hagar (1), Sarah (1), and Keturah (6).
- In spite of his appeals and efforts … God rejected his favorite, Ishmael.
- Paul had just denied God's spiritual promises were to all of Israel (9:6).
- Now he showed their history … God had elected only one of Abraham's 8.

8 That is, They which are the children of the flesh, these are not the children of God: but the children of the promise are counted for the seed.

- If the Spirit says, *that is,* we appreciate it. <u>Flesh anything is not spiritual</u>.
- Of Abraham's 8 sons, seven were of the flesh outside His electing grace.
- Only one came by God's promise, miraculous birth, and election in Christ.
- These verses are not national privilege ... but rather the "children of God."
- Arminian fleshly gimmicks have not and cannot produce a child of God.

9 For this is the word of promise, At this time will I come, and Sara shall have a son.

- All promises to Abraham of salvation and heaven were in only one son.
- God promised a son by Sarah to Abraham first and then also to Sarah.
- God told Abraham a year in advance; He told Sarah 9 months in advance.
- Abraham' second son, Isaac, was by promise over fleshly impossibilities.
- Abraham's miracle son by Sarah was God's electing line over 7 other sons.

10 And not only this; but when Rebecca also had conceived by one, even by our father Isaac;

- Election chose one of 8, over Abram's efforts/love, but this is even better.
- The next generation of "children of God" was through Isaac and Rebecca.
- God made a further display of election in another unusual birth situation.
- Rebecca, Isaac's wife, conceived by the one son out of eight of Abraham.
- What comes next is creative by God's design and precious by His purpose.

11 (For the children being not yet born, neither having done any good or evil, that the purpose of God according to election might stand, not of works, but of him that calleth;)

- One father and one mother have unborn twins. <u>This is sovereign election</u>.
- Before they were born, God's purpose from eternity was for one of them.
- Neither boy had done any good or evil yet, but God had elected only one.
- Character or conduct was nothing ... it was all God's purpose in election.
- The one and only determining will is the One calling ... appointing ... God!

12 It was said unto her, The elder shall serve the younger.

- Rebecca felt the twins wrestling in her womb, so she asked God about it.
- He explained about two nations and people inside her – Israel & Edom.
- He told her that one nation would be stronger than the other – Israel.
- He told her that the twin born first would serve the twin born second.
- Are national privileges here? ... Yes, but salvation is Paul's main theme.

13 As it is written, Jacob have I loved, but Esau have I hated.

- Where is this written? Did God say this to their mother? No. Try again.
- Where is this written? In Malachi 1:1-5 in a rebuke to Israel by contrast.

1 The burden of the word of the LORD to Israel by Malachi.
2 I have loved you, saith the LORD. Yet ye say, Wherein hast thou loved us? Was not Esau Jacob's brother? saith the LORD: yet I loved Jacob,
3 And I hated Esau, and laid his mountains and his heritage waste for the dragons of the wilderness.
4 Whereas Edom saith, We are impoverished, but we will return and build the desolate places; thus saith the LORD of hosts, They shall build, but I will throw down; and they shall call them, The border of wickedness, and, The people against whom the LORD hath indignation for ever.
5 And your eyes shall see, and ye shall say, The LORD will be magnified from the border of Israel.

Malachi 1:1-5

13 As it is written, Jacob have I loved, but Esau have I hated.

- Where is this written? Did God say this to their mother? No. Try again.
- Where is this written? In Malachi 1:1-5 in a rebuke to Israel by contrast.
- Most are drunk on human arrogance so that God must love every person.
- If He must love every human person, why not demand His love for Satan?
- God's holiness, man's rebellion, Bible revelation, and logic require hatred.

Much More of God's Love and Hate

https://letgodbetrue.com/sermons/index/year-2015/distinguishing-love-of-god/

14 What shall we say then? Is there unrighteousness with God? God forbid.

- The Holy Spirit knew some would think God hating Esau to be wicked.
- So the Holy Spirit by Paul asked the question for us and then answered it.
- Paul's inspired answer is the strongest negative ... <u>No way is God sinful</u>!
- This question would not have come up over national privileges. Please.
- Unrighteous? He should hate sinners. How did He righteously love Jacob?

15 For he saith to Moses, I will have mercy on whom I will have mercy, and I will have compassion on whom I will have compassion.

- God proved election by their history (Isaac; Jacob) … now by scripture!
- His will is absolutely independent of all others and absolutely sovereign.
- God only shows mercy to those He chooses to show mercy to. Amen!
- God only shows compassion to those He chooses to show compassion.
- This is the only will … note four times … involved in salvation to heaven.

16 So then it is not of him that willeth, nor of him that runneth, but of God that sheweth mercy.

- In case you did not get it by positive proof … here it is by negative proof.
- It is by God's independent and sovereign will … so your will is left out.
- It is by God's independent and sovereign will … so your effort is left out.
- If you must perform by will or effort … it would be by works, not mercy.
- It is only pure, sovereign mercy by which God saves rebel sinners. Glory!

Which were born,
not of blood,
nor of the will of the flesh,
nor of the will of man,
but of God.

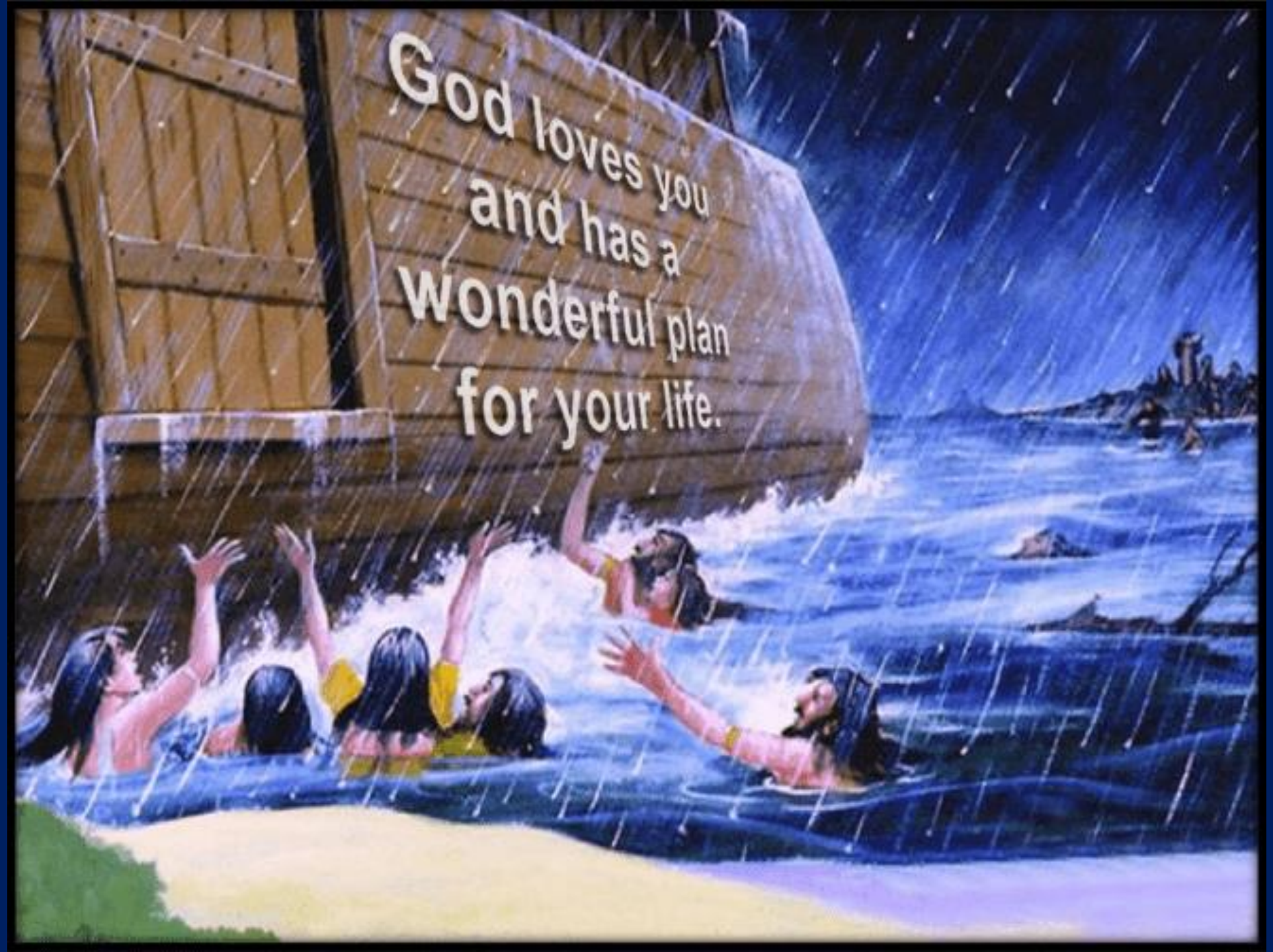
John 1:13

17 For the scripture saith unto Pharaoh, Even for this same purpose have I raised thee up, that I might shew my power in thee, and that my name might be declared throughout all the earth.

- Again Paul by the Spirit appealed to the scriptures to prove his argument.
- What is being proved? Why the *for?* God is merciful to only some men.
- He was not merciful to Pharoah, and the Jews and Bible readers knew it.
- God exalted Pharaoh to kill him for His own power and glory (Ex 9:16).
- No mercy was shown to Pharaoh … God hardened his already hard heart.

18 Therefore hath he mercy on whom he will have mercy, and whom he will he hardeneth.

- Paul quoted Moses for mercy/compassion (15) and then hardening (17)!
- Therefore = a key conclusion. God's will rules all mercy and hardening.
- God has never hardened a good person by making them bad (Jas 1:13).
- But God does harden wicked men by withholding mercy or provoking.
- This God is very different from Michelangelo's, *Senile Daddy in the Sky.*


God loves you
and has a
wonderful plan
for your life.

Trust ye not in lying words, saying,
The temple of the LORD,
The temple of the LORD,
The temple of the LORD,
are these.

Jeremiah 7:4

19 Thou wilt say then unto me, Why doth he yet find fault? For who hath resisted his will?

- The Holy Spirit knew some would think God could not hold man guilty.
- If Pharoah fulfilled God's will, how did God hold him responsible for sin?
- I love this question and its answer. It is ultimate independent sovereignty.
- Paul does not waste a word trying to explain God's dominion any better.
- Remember this answer when you hear any fool question God's dominion.

20 Nay but, O man, who art thou that repliest against God? Shall the thing formed say to him that formed it, Why hast thou made me thus?

- He boldly silenced the question as being totally unacceptable for Jehovah.
- This reminds us of what we are ... dust ... and ignorant dust at that. Amen!
- Questioning God's sovereignty totally overlooks the Godhead of Jehovah.
- Are not questions allowed? No. Should I not figure God out? No, potsherd.
- Some things are too high for us, so we should humbly submit and shut up.

LORD, my heart is not haughty, nor mine eyes lofty:
neither do I exercise myself in great matters,
or in things too high for me.

Psalm 131:1

21 Hath not the potter power over the clay, of the same lump to make one vessel unto honour, and another unto dishonour?

- So Paul asked a question of those poor souls asking questions about God.
- A potter can do whatever he chooses with his clay. A good vessel or a bad.
- Authority, intelligence, and might of the potter are infinitely over the clay.
- Are we like clay then? Of course. We are dust. We are nothing before Him.
- Note here God made both vessels from the same lump – sinful mankind.





22 What if God, willing to shew his wrath, and to make his power known, endured with much longsuffering the vessels of wrath fitted to destruction:

- Paul asked another question ... about eternal life ... after God as Potter ...
- Will you question God as Potter choosing some for heaven and some hell?
- Like Pharoah, His purpose with sinners is to show His anger and power.
- He is willing to endure some rebels until Judgment Day (grasp II Pet 3:9).
- Potters can do as they will ... God predestinated some for wrath and ruin.

23 And that he might make known the riches of his glory on the vessels of mercy, which he had afore prepared unto glory,

- Paul's question continues ... first vessels of wrath ... now vessels of mercy.
- From the same lump of sinful man, God chose to show mercy to some.
- He planned them for glory in eternity – by predestination – for His glory.
- God gets glory for salvation by Himself ... not by man making a decision.
- God judges vessels of wrath for their sins ... He saves us in spite of sins.

24 Even us, whom he hath called, not of the Jews only, but also of the Gentiles?

- Who are the vessels of mercy? Some <u>of</u> the Jews and some <u>of</u> the Gentiles.
- Rome reading Paul's epistle learned how they were saved ... and also us!
- What does He mean He called them? Appointed, ordained to eternal life.
- Forget national privileges and Israel only! This is Gentile (Jew) salvation.
- Previous and following chapters of Romans are about eternal life in Jesus.

Details of Romans 9 ...
in 14 Sermons and 39-Page Outline

https://letgodbetrue.com/sermons/index/year-2011/romans-9/

Or a 7-Minute PPT Review of it …

https://letgodbetrue.com/sermons/index/year-2020/review-of-romans-9-16/

Romans 9

Theme: *Not All Israel Elected*

Paul explained God's mystery to reject many of Israel in order to save many Gentiles by His sovereign grace.

Short Outline

1-5	Opening is gentle and wise to calm the Jews
6	Statement of election/reprobation of the Jews
7-13	Proved by election in the patriarchs' families
14-24	Proved by theology of God Jehovah the Potter
25-29	Proved by scripture from the Jew's own O.T.
30-33	Explanation of Jews' response to the gospel

Paul had reduced Jews to condemnation like Gentiles, needing salvation by grace. Before the practical part of his epistle, he detailed God's plan for the two races. He taught God would save only some Jews, consistent with history, His nature, the scriptures, His plan to save Gentiles, and the response of both to the gospel.

6 Not as though the word of God hath taken none effect. For they are not all Israel, which are of Israel: 7 Neither, because they are the seed of Abraham, are they all children: but, In Isaac shall thy seed be called.

11 (For the children being not yet born, neither having done any good or evil, that the purpose of God according to election might stand, not of works, but of him that calleth;) ... 13 As it is written, Jacob have I loved, but Esau have I hated.

20 Nay but, O man, who art thou that repliest against God? Shall the thing formed say to him that formed it, Why hast thou made me thus? 21 Hath not the potter power over the clay, of the same lump to make one vessel unto honour, and another unto dishonour?

27 Esaias also crieth concerning Israel, Though the number of the children of Israel be as the sand of the sea, a remnant shall be saved:

Lesson: *Paul had great love for elect Jewish souls; mark it.*
Lesson: *Israel was not all God's chosen people; only elect.*
Lesson: *God's sovereignty in eternal life is plainly declared.*
Lesson: *The people not His people are Jews, not Gentiles.*
Lesson: *Israel stumbled over Christ's gospel as purposed.*

Tonight, in the Spring of 2024 ...

We owe this glorious God all of our praise, all of our love, all of our service, all of our obedience, without any regard to our foolish little problems or carnal little goals.