

Comments About Romans 9

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BIG SANDY, Texas—Recently, I began a series of brief articles to discuss chapters in the book of Romans. This week, we will talk about chapter 9.

May this project encourage you to review the valuable history found in the book of Romans.

Genuine concern

■ The apostle Paul expressed that he had sorrow and grief in his heart (Romans 9:1-2).

■ He professed his desire for his brethren to have a relationship with God (verses 3-5).

Notice the phrase "accursed from Christ" in verse 3.

Romans 9:3—"For I could wish that I myself were accursed from Christ for my brethren, my countrymen according to the flesh."

Notice a similar sentiment expressed by Moses in Exodus 32:32.

Exodus 32:32—"Yet now, if You will forgive their sin—but if not, I pray, blot me out of Your book which You have written."

They are not all Israel

■ God did not break His promise (verse 6). God did not work the same with all of Israel (also verse 6).

■ Paul paraphrased Genesis 21:12 (verse 7).

■ Paul paraphrased Genesis 18:10, 14 (verse 9).

■ Consider those events to show that the purpose of God is according to election and not according to works (verses 10-11).

■ Paul paraphrased Genesis 25:23 (verse 12).

■ Paul paraphrased Malachi 1:2-3 (verse 13).

God hardened his heart

■ Paul asked: Is God unfair? (verse 14).

■ Paul paraphrased Exodus 33:19 (verse 15).

Romans 9:15—"For He says to Moses, 'I will have mercy on whomever I will have mercy, and I will have compassion on whomever I will have compassion.' "

- Paul wrote that life depends upon God's mercy (verse 16).

Romans 9:16—"So then it is not of him who wills, nor of him who runs, but of God who shows mercy."

- Paul paraphrased Exodus 9:16 (verse 17).

Romans 9:17—"For the Scripture says to Pharaoh, 'For this very purpose I have raised you up, that I may show My power in you, and that My name may be declared in all the earth.' "

- Paul wrote that God has mercy on some and hardens some (verse 18).

Romans 9:18—"Therefore He has mercy on whom He wills, and whom He wills He hardens."

As the potter

- Paul wrote that people will ask: "Why does God still find fault?" (verse 19).

- Paul cautioned about questioning God (verse 20).

- Paul likened God to a potter and said that some clay is for honor and some for dishonor (verses 21-24).

- Paul paraphrased Hosea 2:23 (verse 25).

- Paul paraphrased Hosea 1:10 (verse 26).

- Paul paraphrased Isaiah 10:22-23 (verses 27-28).

- Paul paraphrased Isaiah 1:9 (verse 29).

- Paul mentioned that the gentiles found righteousness without the law (verse 30), and Israel did not find righteousness through the law (verse 31).

- Paul mentioned that Israel's problem was that it stumbled at the stumbling stone (verse 32), and then he paraphrased Isaiah 8:14 and Isaiah 28:16 (verse 33).

Matthew 21:42—"Jesus said to them, 'Have you never read in the Scriptures: "The stone which the builders rejected Has become the chief cornerstone. This was the LORD's doing, and it is marvelous in our eyes" '?"