

Sovereign Election: God's Faithfulness
Romans 9:1-16

Getting Started

- ❖ What stood out to you the most in this sermon? Did this sermon create questions you would like to ask Jerry?
- ❖ **Opening Prayer Time:** This week, let's pray for our New City Church plant and ask God to give Ben and the team there the wisdom they need as they adjust to their worship site being unavailable during the school shut-down.

Digging Deeper

❖ **Read Romans 9:1-16.**

- What is the godly response to passages like this one, that have some hard truths contained in them? What are ungodly responses to passages like these?
- Paul is clearly concerned for his ethnic Jewish people. What response is created in you as you read his angst?
- How do you see Paul looking through a "gospel lens" at the Jewish situation?
- Jerry made a point of stressing verses 6-8 as it relates to understanding the term Israel. Read the following, looking up any cross-referenced verses it mentions, and discuss what this passage is teaching.

Spiritual Israel and ethnic Israel: "The thesis of the paragraph is stated in v 6b: not all who are descended from Israel are Israel. There is, Paul suggests, in keeping with the OT 'remnant' theology, a spiritual Israel within a larger ethnic Israel. Paul may elsewhere use 'Israel' to denote the entire people of God, both Jew and Gentile (Gal. 6:16). Here, however, as the sequel makes clear, he is thinking only of Jews. Paul proves his point about the Israel within Israel in two roughly parallel arguments drawn from OT history (7-10, 11-13)" (IVP New Bible Commentary).

- Does this passage challenge you and, if so, in what way?
- How should this passage comfort and inspire you?
- What does it indicate about God's redemptive plan in the gospel?
- What is the difference between "children of the flesh" and "children of the promise" in Romans 9:8? How does the context of vv. 6-12 bear this out?
 - What are ways that even Christians can focus on their physical membership in God's people, and lose focus on the primary spiritual membership in God's people?
 - How do we keep our focus on the "promise" instead of the natural connection we might have?

(Over)

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❖ **Applying this sermon to Our Lives:**

- How does the truth from verses 6-16 smash our pride and promote humility?
- How can Election actually embolden us to be Ambassadors for Christ?
- What do you think your life would be like if God hadn't chosen you for salvation?

Think About It!

If your God never disagrees with you, you might be worshiping an idealized version of yourself. (Tim Keller)

Praying Together

This week let your prayer time be shaped in this way. First, spend time praying for one another, our church, our community and our nation as we face the coronavirus. Secondly, Paul is in anguish over his kinsmen not being saved (9:1-3). Is there a person or a group of people who have not believed in the gospel that you have anguish over? Share those people and spend time praying for them as a group.

(Note: In this year's study of Romans, our study questions are being inspired by or derived from books, commentaries and bible studies authored by: Pastors Matt Smith, Max Lucado, John MacArthur, R.C. Sproul, Jack Hayford and Tim Keller.)