

*Morning Sermon Outline
January 10, 2016, Romans 9
"Sorrow and Truth"*

I was twenty years old when I heard the first sermon I heard on this passage. It is a sermon I can repeat to you today. After reading the entire chapter, the pastor said, "This passage is not really teaching what it seems to be teaching, it is really teaching free will, let us move to chapter 10." I did not move to chapter 10 that day, but while my pastor went to chapter 10, I read and reread chapter 9 ... It was teaching what it seemed to be teaching. I had not yet received any call to be a Pastor, but I did feel God call me to be truthful about the TRUTH -

I. Paul's great reason for great sorrow, not all Israel is Elect Israel – Romans 9:1-8

- 1. Paul's heart for his people National Israel*
- A. :1 - Paul's emphasis on the TRUTH of his heart, why? Because the doctrine he would soon teach and had been teaching and his office as an apostle to the Gentiles these things made him odious to his brethren according to the flesh – Romans 11:13; 1 Timothy 2:7; 2 Timothy 1:11 & Acts 23:12-14*
- B. :2-3 Paul's sorrow, described as "great" and "continual." As much as Paul could rejoice in the Lord always Philippians 4:4, so he also had a continual sorrow in his heart for Israel, even to the point of wishing himself accursed if his damnation could mean their salvation!*
- 2. Israel as a nation was favored of God, they had great privileges - :4-5, You would expect these things, especially Christ's coming to them, would lead to their salvation, to all of them or at least many of them being saved, but they were NOT!*
- 3. :6-8 Did God fail? Had the Word of God no effect? No, not all Israel (national Israel) was true, godly spiritual Israel, just as not every child of Abraham was a child of promise!*

II. God is sovereign in bestowing mercy and dispensing justice – Romans 9:9-29

- 1. God chose Isaac and not Ishmael -
:9 Sarah will have a son, meaning Isaac and not Ishmael, of the two sons of Abraham Isaac was chosen!*
- 2. God LOVED and chose Jacob not Esau –
¹⁰ And not only this, but when Rebecca also had conceived by one man, even by our father Isaac ¹¹ (for the children not yet being born, nor having done any good or evil, that the purpose of God according to election might stand, not of works but of Him who calls), ¹² it was said to her, "The older shall serve the younger." ¹³ As it is written, "Jacob I have loved, but Esau I have hated." (Romans 9:10-13 NKJ)*
 - A. :10 - The point here is there is only one father Isaac and one mother Rebecca, unlike the case with Abraham who had Isaac by Sarah but Ishmael by Hagar, the difference is not a different mother or father, but God's choice!*
 - B. :11-12 - The difference is not that one of the boys was better than the other, or proved himself so, No God chose Jacob and rejected Esau, before the two boys were born –
²¹ Now Isaac pleaded with the LORD for his wife, because she was barren; and the LORD granted his plea, and Rebekah his wife conceived.
²² But the children struggled together within her; and she said, "If all is well, why am I like this?" So she went to inquire of the LORD.
²³ And the LORD said to her: "Two nations are in your womb, Two peoples shall be separated from your body; One people shall be stronger than the other, And the older shall serve the younger."
(Genesis 25:21-23 NKJ)*
 - C. :13 Jacob I loved, Esau I hated had to do with God's relative treatment of the two nations born from these two sons of Isaac –
² "I have loved you," says the LORD. "Yet you say, 'In what way have You loved us?' Was not Esau Jacob's brother?" Says the LORD. "Yet Jacob I have loved; ³ But Esau I have hated, And laid waste his mountains and his heritage For the jackals of the wilderness." (Malachi 1:2-3 NKJ)*
 - All the privileges mentioned in Romans 9:4-5 were part of that love*
 - In addition to providential care and protection which Esau (Edom) lacked – Malachi 1:3*

3. *Salvation is by God's mercy and compassion, it is not by man's running or achievement, God is not unrighteous if He has mercy on some and not others – :14-16*

4. *God's glory sometimes shown in His hardening and wrath - :17-18*

5. *God's "fairness" is not something we can question –*

¹⁹ You will say to me then, "Why does He still find fault? For who has resisted His will?" ²⁰ But indeed, O man, who are you to reply against God? Will the thing formed say to him who formed *it*, "Why have you made me like this?" ²¹ Does not the potter have power over the clay, from the same lump to make one vessel for honor and another for dishonor? ²² *What* if God, wanting to show *His* wrath and to make His power known, endured with much longsuffering the vessels of wrath prepared for destruction, ²³ and that He might make known the riches of His glory on the vessels of mercy, which He had prepared beforehand for glory, ²⁴ even us whom He called, not of the Jews only, but also of the Gentiles? (Romans 9:19-24 NKJ)

Imagine how Paul could have answered the questions in verse :19 ... He could have posited that some (if they do) do resist His will? He could have said, well they do not resist His decretive will but they do resist His prescriptive will, which would have been correct ... but rather He gives us the COLD TRUTH, rather than the warm heart he expressed in verses :4-5 "WHO ARE YOU TO REPLY AGAINST GOD?"

Well, I am a creature! I am a sinner! I am at best like Abraham dust and ashes – ²⁷ Then Abraham answered and said, "Indeed now, I who *am* but dust and ashes have taken it upon myself to speak to the Lord: (Genesis 18:27 NKJ)

6. *God had in His plan "mercy" not only for Jews but also for Gentiles – Romans 9:23-26*

²³ Then I will sow her for Myself in the earth, And I will have mercy on *her* who had not obtained mercy; Then I will say to *those who were* not My people, 'You are My people!' And they shall say, 'You are my God!'" (Hosea 2:23 NKJ)

7. *Paul shows from OT Scripture only a remnant (small number) of national Israel would be saved – Romans 9:27-29, Isaiah 10:20-22; Isaiah 1:9*

III. *Faith in Jesus Christ, not nationality is the distinguishing mark of the elect – Romans 9:30-33*

³⁰ What shall we say then? That Gentiles, who did not pursue righteousness, have attained to righteousness, even the righteousness of faith; ³¹ but Israel, pursuing the law of righteousness, has not attained to the law of righteousness. ³² Why? Because *they did* not seek it by faith, but as it were, by the works of the law. For they stumbled at that stumbling stone. ³³ As it is written: "Behold, I lay in Zion a stumbling stone and rock of offense, and whoever believes on Him will not be put to shame." (Romans 9:30-33 NKJ)

1. *The great religious mistake, thinking I can keep the law, I can climb the Terrible Mountain –*

¹⁸ Now all the people witnessed the thunderings, the lightning flashes, the sound of the trumpet, and the mountain smoking; and when the people saw *it*, they trembled and stood afar off. (Exodus 20:18 NKJ)

¹⁸ For you have not come to the mountain that may be touched and that burned with fire, and to blackness and darkness and tempest, ¹⁹ and the sound of a trumpet and the voice of words, so that those who heard *it* begged that the word should not be spoken to them anymore. ²⁰ (For they could not endure what was commanded: "And if so much as a beast touches the mountain, it shall be stoned or shot with an arrow." ²¹ And so terrifying was the sight *that* Moses said, "I am exceedingly afraid and trembling.") (Hebrews 12:18-21 NKJ)

2. *Don't Look at that mountain but behold the Stone Who is Jesus Christ – :32-33*

⁴ Coming to Him as to a living stone, rejected indeed by men, but chosen by God *and* precious, ⁵ you also, as living stones, are being built up a spiritual house, a holy priesthood, to offer up spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ. ⁶ Therefore it is also contained in the Scripture, "Behold, I lay in Zion A chief cornerstone, elect, precious, And he who believes on Him will by no means be put to shame." ⁷ Therefore, to you who believe, *He is* precious; but to those who are disobedient, "The stone which the builders rejected Has become the chief cornerstone," ⁸ and "A stone of stumbling And a rock of offense." They stumble, being disobedient to the word, to which they also were appointed. ⁹ But you *are* a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, His own special people, that you may proclaim the praises of Him who called you out of darkness into His marvelous light; (1Peter 2:4-9 NKJ)

Why was Christ rejected by His people? They were ashamed of Him, ashamed of His cross. They wanted to win by power, not admit weakness and sin. Faith in Christ is our salvation!

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