

## #13~Romans - The Gospel of God ~ TMG ~ Term One, 2021

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### Romans 9:1-29

*1 I am speaking the truth in Christ—I am not lying; my conscience bears me witness in the Holy Spirit— 2 that I have great sorrow and unceasing anguish in my heart...*

*6 But it is not as though the word of God has failed. For not all who are descended from Israel belong to Israel, 7 and not all are children of Abraham because they are his offspring, but “Through Isaac shall your offspring be named.”*

*14 What shall we say then? Is there injustice on God’s part? By no means! 15 For he says to Moses, “I will have mercy on whom I have mercy, and I will have compassion on whom I have compassion.” 16 So then it depends not on human will or exertion, but on God, who has mercy.*

*19 You will say to me then, “Why does he still find fault? For who can resist his will?” 20 But who are you, O man, to answer back to God? Will what is molded say to its molder, “Why have you made me like this?” 21 Has the potter no right over the clay..,*

*...in order to make known the riches of his glory for vessels of mercy, which he has prepared beforehand for glory— 24 even us whom he has called, not from the Jews only but also from the Gentiles? 25*

*As indeed he says in Hosea, “Those who were not my people I will call ‘my people,’ and her who was not beloved I will call ‘beloved.’ ...”*

*...And as Isaiah predicted, “If the Lord of hosts had not left us offspring, we would have been like Sodom and become like Gomorrah.”*

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### From ‘mountain top’ joy to ‘unceasing anguish’

Why the dramatic change?

- A spare sermon?
- Or an intrinsic part of Paul’s message to the Romans?
  - o More than mere doctrine, this is personal for Paul.

Sinclair Ferguson suggests these chapters speak of the “*righteousness of God vindicated in all he has done in history among Jew and Gentile.*”

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## **The Israelites 'had it all' - ...what went wrong? Has God's word failed?**

- No! God's word has not failed.
  - Instead...
    - God's word never fails (v6a)
    - Not all who are descended from Israel belong to Israel (v6b-9)
      - Faith not flesh
      - Promise not progeny
    - God's purpose of election remains (v10-13)
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## **But isn't that a bit unfair!?**

- No. God's mercy is not unjust (v14-18).
    - Be careful what you ask for.
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- No. He is the potter, we are the clay (v19-29).
    - ...to make known the riches of his glory...
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*Oh, the depth of the riches and wisdom and knowledge of God! How unsearchable are his judgments and how inscrutable his ways!*

*Romans 11:33*