

## Romans – Session # 19

We left off last time by concluding Chapter 8 – with Paul’s great faith statement reassuring us that there is nothing that can separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus. These are among the most blessed words for our ears to hear. No matter what trials we go through in life, God will be with us.

Now we turn to chapter 9 – which deals with the place of Israel in light of the Advent of Jesus, Word of God, Incarnate. Paul has proclaimed a bold new message, namely that the Kingdom of God is open to all people, who through faith in Jesus, are now welcome. God’s love is for all people. This truth of course forms the basis for us to be motivated to fulfill the Great Commission: to go and make disciples of all nations, for God’s love and desire is that all people come into a saving relationship with Him.

So Paul now turns to address the difficult question, where does this new reality leave the Jews, the chosen people of Israel? Paul devotes chapter 9, chapter 10 and chapter 11 to this complicated issue. (Read ch:1-18)

Vs 1-5 are often referred to as “the tragedy of Israel”. In these verses Paul, himself a Jew & a Pharisee affirms his deep sorrow at what happened to his people Israel.

Vs. 1 – He asserts he is speaking the Truth, in Christ. He is saying in effect, it is truth because it is from Christ, not from me. He then follows this positive statement, with a negative affirmation – “I am not lying”. He adds – “my conscience bears me witness in the Holy Spirit”. Paul is claiming that Christ and the Holy Spirit are involved and behind these words and they are true.

Vs. 2 – Paul shares his anguish and sorrow. Paul is broken by inner conflict. He is a Jew, part of God’s chosen people. But he sees and feels the sadness that the Jews have not accepted Jesus as the Messiah.

Vs. 3 – Paul says: “I could wish that I were accursed and cut off from Christ for the sake of my people.” That is how much cares about his kinsmen. He is saying he would take their place, so that they could be in Christ.

Vs. 4 – Paul lists all the advantages that the Jews have as Israelites:

- Adoption as sons
- The glory of God]
- The covenants
- The receipt of the Law
- The worship (temple)
- The promises of God
- The Patriarchs, Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob (Vs. 5)
- Jesus himself, was a Jew (Vs. 5)

Jesus was both Jew and Christ, He is the second person of the Trinity, He is God! He is over all creation and blessed forever. Amen!

Vs. 6-29 of chapter 9 can be described under the label: “God’s sovereign freedom” They raise the issue of the complicated doctrines of Election and Predestination. I have a hand out to look us to look at. (discussion ensued).

Vs. 6 – In verse 6 Paul moves from his anguish and sorrow at the status of his people, to the beginning of his theological argument. He does so by talking about God’s sovereignty. He is a mighty God. He is doing what He planned all along. There is a strong emphasis on God’s mercy. God is not a tyrant, He loves all whom He has made, and the people He has chosen. In Vs. 6-13 – Paul states God’s promise to Israel has not failed. Paul insists in Vs. 6 that the whole Jewish nation would not be saved, just because they were descendants of Abraham. Blood lines, those descendant of Abraham, does not mean that everyone in that blood line will be saved. Being a descendant of Abraham never gave total security and a favored position before God. Now the basis of salvation is not blood line, it is being in a relationship with God.