

GOD, ISRAEL, THE MESSIAH AND THE GOSPEL

NEW LIFE FELLOWSHIP

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Romans 1 thru 8 – the Biblical, Doctrinal Foundations of the Gospel of Christ ... **All Dimensions**

Romans 9 thru 11 – The Relationship of the Gospel of Christ to the Genetic Descendants of Israel

Romans 12 thru 16 – Knowing all of this, How then Should We Live out the Gospel of Christ?

Romans 9 (the whole chapter):

I tell the truth in Christ, I am not lying, my conscience also bearing me witness in the Holy Spirit, ²that I have great sorrow and continual grief in my heart. ³For I could wish that I myself were accursed from Christ for my brethren, my countrymen according to the flesh, ⁴who are Israelites, to whom pertain the adoption, the glory, the covenants, the giving of the law, the service of God, and the promises; ⁵of whom are the fathers and from whom, according to the flesh, Christ came, who is over all, the eternally blessed God. Amen.

⁶But it is not that the word of God has taken no effect. For they are not all Israel who are of Israel, ⁷nor are they all children because they are the seed of Abraham; but, **“In Isaac your seed shall be called.”** ⁸That is, those who are the children of the flesh, these are **not the children of God**; but the children of the promise are counted as the seed. ⁹For this is the word of promise: “At this time I will come and Sarah shall have a son.”

¹⁰And 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**), ¹²it was said to her, **“The older shall serve the younger.”** ¹³As it is written, “Jacob I have loved, but Esau I have hated.”

¹⁴**What shall we say then?** Is there unrighteousness with God? **Certainly not!** ¹⁵For 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.” ¹⁶So then it is not of him who wills, nor of him who runs, but of **God who shows mercy**. ¹⁷For the Scripture says to the 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.” ¹⁸**Therefore** He has mercy on whom He wills, and whom He wills He hardens. (*remember: God Opposes the PROUD, but Gives Grace to the Humble* - Jas 4:6; 1 Pet 5:5)

¹⁹You will say to me then, **“Why does He still find fault?** For who has resisted His will?” ²⁰But 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?”** ²¹Does 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, ²³and that He might make known the riches of His glory on the vessels of mercy, which He had prepared beforehand for glory, ²⁴even us whom He called, not of the Jews only, but also of the Gentiles?

²⁵As He says also in Hosea:

“I will call them My people, who were not My people,
and her beloved, who was not beloved.”

²⁶“And it shall come to pass in the place where it was said to them,

‘You are not My people,’
There they shall be called sons of the living God.”

²⁷ Isaiah also cries out concerning Israel:

“Though the number of the children of Israel be as the sand of the sea,
The remnant will be saved.

²⁸ For He will finish the work and cut it short in righteousness,
Because the LORD will make a short work upon the earth.”

²⁹ And as Isaiah said before:

“Unless the LORD of Hosts had left us a seed,
We would have become like Sodom, and we would have been made like Gomorrah.”

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.”

1. Last week we discussed God’s Compassion for His People and for Lost Gentile Peoples (Matt. 9:35-38)
2. Last week we discussed God’s Sovereignty in His choosing of Methods, Categories, Grace, Punishments, etc... even about His Foreknowledge about events that Could’ve Happened (but didn’t) → in the case of Tyre, Sidon, Sodom and Gomorrah ... would’ve Repented long ago if they had the same type of Miracles in their midst from Jesus Christ that Jesus Christ performed in the cities He actually did His ministry in: Chorazin, Bethsaida, Capernaum, etc. God’s Sovereignty and His Foreknowledge covers all knowing of everything: past, present, and future and the “what if’s” – all possible “what if’s” ...
3. Last week we discussed God’s Unchanging Principle, seen in the Old and New Testament Documents: “God Opposes the Proud, but He Give Grace to the Humble” Jas 4:6; 1 Pet 5:5 This covers every possible understanding of God’s Justice, Righteousness, Mercy, Grace, Love, Forgiveness . . . nothing in Romans 9 thru 11 negates this overriding principle of God.

This Week:

1. **God Chose** → Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob ... the Genetic Descendants of Jacob, of the 12 sons of Israel ... for His Purposes. His Promises, His Covenants all with Israel. Not all of the descendants of Israel would become “children of God” ... that is a different subject ... that is one of Salvation, Forgiveness of Sins, Eternal Life – in the Messiah of Israel, Jesus Christ. **see Romans 9:6-13** – God is Sovereign in His Choosing of His Chosen People, Israel. Unchanging Purposes for Israel. But, that does not mean that every Israelite is Saved and will go to Heaven. God Chose, only Israel, so that the Messiah would come forth, so that all humans beings of all people groups would have the ability to be saved and go to heaven. He chose Israel to be a “priest nation” among all the nations (see Exodus 19:6).
2. **Finding Fault with God? Romans 9:14-24** This is in regards to His Choosing of Israel: **Confronting jealousy and hatred**. This person “**O Man**” represents **unbelievers** who want to argue with God, the Bible, etc... Paul brings up God’s Sovereignty, it is God’s Universe. This is NOT saying that God is Capricious ... Paul is seeking to help these unbelievers see that God

is all powerful and all knowing ... and that He knows what He is doing. God is NEVER unjust, NEVER ... but folks, even today will take things out of Context in the Bible and misconstrue some event or happening recorded in the Old Testament and say “See, God is Capricious and Unjust ... like a juvenile delinquent or an infant not getting his way... etc...” Those charges are still being laid against the God of the Bible, even today. These are the kinds of people Paul is addressing here.

Pharaoh → God predicted that Pharaoh would not listen to God or to Moses, ahead of time, and explained this to Moses (see Exodus 4:21-23).

see **Exodus 7:3-5**

³ And I will harden Pharaoh’s heart, and multiply My signs and My wonders in the land of Egypt. ⁴ But **Pharaoh will not heed you**, so that I may lay My hand on Egypt and bring My armies and My people, the children of Israel, out of the land of Egypt by great judgments. ⁵ And the Egyptians shall know that I am the Lord, when I stretch out My hand on Egypt and bring out the children of Israel from among them.

Here is a great article on this subject and it is spot on ...

Did God Harden Pharaoh’s heart, directly, or did Pharaoh harden his own heart?

<http://www.apologeticspress.org/apcontent.aspx?category=11&article=1205>

<Excerpt >

Turning to the book of Exodus, most Bible readers must admit that they were at least slightly startled the first time they read about God hardening Pharaoh’s heart, and then His punishing Pharaoh for that same hard-heartedness. In dealing with these allegations, three distinct declarations are made with regard to the hardening of Pharaoh’s heart. First, the text states that God hardened Pharaoh’s heart (7:3; 9:12; 10:1,20,27; 11:10; 14:4,8), and the hearts of the Egyptians (14:17). Second, it is said that Pharaoh hardened his own heart (8:15, 32; 9:34), that he refused to humble himself (10:3), and that he was stubborn (13:15). Third, the text uses the passive form to indicate that Pharaoh’s heart was hardened, without giving any indication as to the source (7:13,14,22; 8:19; 9:7,35). The questions that arise from this state of affairs are: (1) did God harden Pharaoh on some occasions, while Pharaoh hardened himself on others? (2) Did God do all the hardening of Pharaoh, with the references to Pharaoh hardening himself being the result of God forcing him to do so against his own will? (3) Are all three declarations given in the text actually parallel expressions that mean the same thing? (4) Are the three declarations distinct from one another in their meaning, but all true in their own respects? Is the God of the Bible an unjust, cruel Being?

So, did God hardened Pharaoh’s heart and then punish Pharaoh for hardening his heart? Remember: **God Opposes the Proud, but Gives Grace to the Humble**. Yes, this principle applies here. So, I encourage you to read the whole account from Exodus 4 thru 14.

<Excerpt of article referenced above (web article)>

In the case of Pharaoh, “God hardened Pharaoh’s heart” in the sense that **God provided the circumstances and the occasion for Pharaoh to be forced to make a decision**. God sent Moses to place His demands before Pharaoh. Moses merely announced God’s instructions. God even accompanied His Word with miracles—to confirm the divine origin of the message (cf. Mark 16:20). Pharaoh made up his own mind to resist God’s demands. Of his own accord, he stubbornly refused to comply. Of course, God provided the occasion for Pharaoh to demonstrate his unyielding attitude. If God had not sent Moses, Pharaoh would not have been faced with the dilemma of whether to release the Israelites. **So God was certainly the instigator and initiator. But He was not the author of Pharaoh’s defiance.**

3. Israel, the reason for their situation Today, and in Paul's Day ... Romans 9:25-33

They refused to believe God, believe God's Word, Trust in His Messiah
Their Partial Hardening of their Heart, is NOT because God wants them that way ...

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.**"

All Israelites, just like all Gentiles, we can only receive God's Salvation and His Righteousness in the New Covenant, both of us, in **the same way ...** By Trusting in Jesus Christ for our Salvation, alone. We, all, must trust in the full redemptive works of Christ (Crucifixion, Death, Burial and Resurrection...) that God Punished Jesus Christ for our sins, on our behalf, once and for all ... for all human beings, for all time (past, present, and future) ... no matter who we are descended from. Romans 10 explains this much deeper.

Because most of the physical, genetic descendants of Israel are so proud, they think that they can pursue God's Righteousness and receive "Right Standing Before God" by "the works of the Law" (that is, by performing, observation of, and participating in "certain 'righteous' rituals and acts, etc.". But **REMEMBER: God Opposes the Proud, but Gives Grace to the Humble.** They cannot receive God's Righteousness that "self-righteous" way, and never could, never, ever. It has always been: **TRUST God FIRST, LOVE God, then OBEY Him.** That has always been the **WAY of Receiving God's Righteousness ... always, always ... and will always be.** Humility ... being Humble before God, Trusting in Him, Loving Him, then Following and Obeying Him. No other way.

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:
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The Answer is always Jesus Christ ... He is the embodiment of God's Salvation, the Good News.

So, Paul is saying that, even though God chose Israel, chose His own ways and Methods ... His main Goal is the Salvation of all peoples. That has never changed, otherwise, why send Jesus Christ to die on the Cross. Paul never stops focusing on the Mission, the Great Commission, and neither should we.