

Romans 9

Introduction

- A. Key issue: how does the gospel affect God's promises to Israel?
 - 1. God has set aside Israel because they rejected his grace.
 - 2. God's sovereignty. (Sheila Alewine article)
 - B. God's mercy is shown to those who accept his terms.
 - 1. The terms are always faith, not works.
 - 2. God sets the terms (vss. 15-16).
 - 3. Example: drowning man.
 - C. Chapters 9-11.
 - 1. Israel past.
 - 2. Israel present.
 - 3. Israel future.
- I. Paul's grief for Israel (1-5).
- A. The depth of his grief.
 - B. Israel's privileges.
 - 1. Adoption. 2. Glory. 3. Covenants. 4. Law. 5. Serving God.
 - 6. Promises. 7. Patriarchs.
- II. God's favor (6-13).
- A. The privileges are not in vain – there have always been believing Jews.
 - B. True Israel.
 - 1. Faith (Isaac – Jacob) regardless of Abraham's physical ability.
 - 2. Works (Ishmael – Esau) regardless of merit (firstborn).

III. God's sovereign choice (14-33).

A. Based on his mercy, not by works (18).

1. God hardened Pharaoh's heart only after giving him chances to repent.
 - a. Compare 400 years for the Canaanites (Ge.15:34ff).
 - b. Judas vs. Peter.
 - c. Sin must come... (Lk.17:1).
2. God used Pharaoh's hardness of heart to show his glory (8:28).
3. Does God's foreknowledge cause an event to happen?
4. God determines the rules for Israel's existence, not Pharaoh.

B. Why am I held accountable?

1. God establishes the terms of salvation.
2. If we resist his terms, we will not be saved.

C. God used Israel's hardness to show grace to the Gentiles.

D. Israel's stumbling.

1. They rejected the means of salvation – faith.
2. They rejected the bringer of salvation – Jesus the Christ.