

LESSON 17: ROMANS 9:1-5
OCTOBER 21, 2020

OVERVIEW

- . Important themes of Chapter's 9-11
- . Great sorrow for a great people – Romans 9:1-4
- . Great advantages for a great people – Romans 9:4-5

IMPORTANT THEMES OF ROMANS 9-11

- . These chapters are an important exposition of Paul's original thesis stated in Romans 1:16-17
 - . "I am not ashamed of the gospel, because it is the power of God for the salvation of everyone who believes: first for the Jew, then for the gentile. For in the gospel of righteousness from God is revealed, a righteousness that is by faith from first to last, just as it is written: the righteous will live by faith"
 - . This is the first time in Romans that Paul focuses on the fact the gospel had "first" been presented to the Jewish people
- . Was the nation of Israel elected, then rejected
 - . Paul has very convincingly argued that salvation is something freely given to those who have been chosen to live by faith
 - . It is not something earned
 - . It is not something we are born into or acquire simply because of our family of origin
 - . In other words, Jews have not received salvation simply because they are Jews
 - . Did Jews lose their "chosen" status
 - . If so, doesn't that fly in the face with how Paul ends Romans 8
- . Some major points that Paul addresses in Romans 9-11
 - . The historical advantages of the Jewish people
 - . The justice of God in election
 - . The glory of God displayed in his judgment
 - . The reason for Jewish rejection of Jesus as Messiah
 - . The plan and power of gospel preaching in God's plan
 - . The importance of Christian missions
 - . What God is doing in the present age and why
 - . The eventual salvation of Israel as a nation
 - . The unfathomable knowledge and wisdom of God that guides it all

GREAT SORROW FOR A GREAT PEOPLE – ROMANS 9:1-4

- . An enemy for Christ's sake
 - . Paul, a zealot Jew has now become an enemy of the Jews
 - . From the Jewish perspective, not only was Paul dreadfully wrong, but his teachings put the entire Jewish institution at great risk
 - . Many Jews considered him a traitor who was trying to destroy Judaism
 - . Paul was aware of Jewish hatred, which is why he was so anxious to declare his love for his people
 - . The remarkable thing is Paul's overwhelming love for his enemies
 - . Despite the constant danger that Paul was in, he never stopped loving those who wanted to kill him
 - . Paul's spirit was the spirit of Christ who wept over Jerusalem even though He knew He was about to be crucified by the nations hostile leaders
 - . The contrast between the Jews unbelief and the joys of the gospel brought tears to the eyes of both Christ and Paul
- . Cut off from Christ
 - . Paul's love for his people was so great that he wished that if he could, he would cut himself off from Christ, if it insured their salvation
 - . Paul would be willing to sacrifice himself for his people if he thought it would make a difference
 - . Yet Paul knew that nothing could separate himself from the love of God through Christ
 - . He also knew Christ's sacrifice was the perfect sacrifice and that there was nothing else God could or would do to provide a way back into His good graces
- . Let this mind be in all of us
 - . Do we anguish over others
 - . Do we anguish over those closest to us
 - . Do we anguish over people who are our enemies
 - . Do we anguish over those who are great sinners
 - . Do we anguish over those who have great privilege

GREAT ADVANTAGES FOR A GREAT PEOPLE – ROMANS 9:4-5

- . The advantages of earthly Israel
 - . The adoption as sons
 - . Every other place that the word "adoption" is used it refers to the new relationship between God and individual believers
 - . Here Paul is using it to refer to the nation of Israel
 - . It is referring to God's selection of the Jews as an elect nation through which He would bring salvation to the world

- . The divine glory
 - . The glory here refers to that visible symbol of the shining presence of God described by later Judaism as the Shekinah
 - . The visible symbol of God's presence seems to have taken a variety of forms
 - . A cloud – Exodus 24:15-18
 - . An intense light – Matthew 17:5
 - . The covenants
 - . God made several covenants with His people, beginning with the patriarchs and then later with Moses and David
 - . The promises in these covenants were that God would be God to His select people
 - . He would never abandon them
 - . He would one day send a Savior who would forever reign on the throne of David
 - . The receiving of the law
 - . Having God's word was an extraordinary advantage
 - . Only the nation of Israel was in possession of the law
 - . The temple worship
 - . The promises
 - . Here the word promise is probably in reference to the coming salvation to be fulfilled by the Messiah
 - . The patriarchs
 - . The human ancestry of Christ
- . Advantages insufficient to save
 - . Nominal Christians
 - . Christians today, can apply these same norms to us, both good and bad
 - . We are not made right by God, simply because we are born in to Christian families
 - . By faith we are saved
 - . The righteous will live by faith

NEXT LESSON - WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 4, 2020 - ROMANS 9:6-29