

LESSON 18: ROMANS 9:6-29
NOVEMBER 4, 2020

OVERVIEW

- . True Israel – Romans 9:6
- . God's Choice – Romans 9:7-29

TRUE ISRAEL - ROMANS 9:6

- . The idea of remnant has deep roots in the Old Testament
 - . The biblical reality is that not all people who were a part of the nation of Israel were among God's faithful covenant people
 - . "Not all who are descended from Israel are Israel"
 - . The first use of "Israel" refers to Old Testament patriarch Jacob whom God renamed Israel
 - . The second use of the name refers to the remnant that remained faithful in their covenant relationship with God
 - . The very name Israel means "he who struggles with God"
- . Remnant is one of the great themes of the Old Testament
 - . Throughout the stories of the Old Testament, there's always a remnant of faithful that keeps the torch burning and passes it along to the next generation
 - . This is a theme very familiar to the Jews of Paul's day
 - . The majority of the Jewish population in Paul's day going about the business of the day with little true faith
- . So what then, is required to be one of the remnant
 - . It is faith in the good news of the gospel being preached by Paul
 - . It begins with faith in the gospel
 - . The righteous will live by faith
 - . It is through our choice to believe that we have been saved
 - . True Israel is choosing to live by faith in the Christ, the true Messiah

GOD'S CHOICE – ROMANS 9:7-29

- . Beginning with Romans 9:7 Paul talks about the sovereign outworking of God's power, purpose and plan according to His righteous and holy will
 - . Often times the word "elect" will be used in reference to God's intervention
 - . Throughout scripture we see strong evidence of God's intervention

- . All humans have been given free will to make our own choices
 - . In the midst of all this God has clearly chosen to be involved and use certain individuals to articulate His plan
 - . It is only through the power of God that we can be made right with God by chosen to be obedient to God's will
 - . Salvation comes through our believing
- . As long as we believe that God exercises *any* control over history or the lives of His people, we must come to terms with election one way or another
 - . When Jesus called His disciples, He called twelve not more although many more could have benefited from it
 - . Everything Jesus did was in lock step with God's will, thus His actions were aimed in fulfilling God's purpose
- . Paul makes his case for God's election by going back through the patriarchs and God's intervention in each of their lives
 - . God's sovereign choice is evident in the case of Abraham
 - . Abraham, the pagan, did not seek or earn God's favor
 - . Yet, when God reached out to him, he answered the call
 - . Through his faith in God and his obedience to God's call, Abraham was deemed righteous by God
 - . Isaac is the next example of God's election
 - . God elects to execute His plan through Isaac and his descendents
 - . Therefore, not all of Abraham's descendents are part of Israel
 - . Jacob, the last of the patriarchs is another example of God's election
 - . Although Jacob was the second born of twins, God forewarned that "the older will serve the younger"
 - . God elected to execute His plan through Jacob, not Esau
- . For reasons that we will never understand, God chooses to do things a certain way
 - . If we were able to understand everything about God, we would be equal to Him and He would no longer be God
 - . It's Ok for certain aspects of God and His plan to remain a mystery
 - . Because certain actions of God may seem to be unfair or unjust, doesn't make God unjust
 - . Faith is believing that all of God's actions are just and Holy and that in time we will come to better understand them
- . Election is both necessary and gracious
 - . In Romans 3 Paul taught us that there is no one righteous, not even one
 - . Without God's intervention, through Christ and the cross we would all still be separated from God through our unregenerate condition
 - . It was God's choice to provide a means for our salvation

- . Every human being ever born has the ability to know God
- . Throughout the ages God has chosen to reveal His plan and has left the choice up to each of us, whether we will or will not have faith in Him who created us

- . "But who are you, O man, to talk back to God" – Romans 9:20
 - . The human tendency is to shrink God into our image
 - . At the heart of arrogance and pride is this notion that we know better than God
 - . We need to approach God with reverence and remember that God is omnipotent, omniscient and omnipresent
 - . God is also holy, and righteous
 - . God is eternally good – His steadfast love endures forever

- . All of God's actions flow from the majestic fullness and beauty of His divine character
 - . He is holy and just in all His ways
 - . He owes the sinful human race no explanation for His ways
 - . God's ultimate purpose is to make His glory known
 - . To put it another way, salvation is not about us, it's about God
 - . In saving some God makes known His mercy and compassion
 - . In not saving all He makes known His power and wrath

NEXT LESSON – WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 18, 2020 – ROMANS 9:30-10:13