

# ROMANS

Week 10: Romans 9:1 – 11:36



## **MAY 18:** SACRIFICING FOR OTHERS

(Begin with 1-2 minutes of silence)

Think for just a moment about those you know who have not made a personal commitment to Christ. How much would you be willing to sacrifice for them in order for them to experience salvation? Now, think about the countless others you may not know who have never made a personal commitment to Christ. How much would you be willing to sacrifice for them?

In Romans 9:2-3, Paul makes a startling statement. He writes, *My heart is filled with bitter sorrow and unending grief for my people, my Jewish brothers and sisters. I would be willing to be forever cursed—cut off from Christ!—if that would save them.*

Surely, there would be other Jewish descendants Paul knew and loved deeply. But there would also be countless others he didn't know. Yet Paul still says he would be willing to be forever cursed - cut off from Christ - if that would save them.

The Life Application Study Bible notes, "How concerned are you for those who don't know Christ? Are you willing to sacrifice your time, money, energy, comfort, and safety to see them come to faith in Jesus?"

## **READING & JOURNALING:**

### **ROMANS 9:1-33**

How concerned are you for those who don't know Christ? Are you willing to sacrifice your time, money, energy, comfort, and safety to see them come to faith in Jesus?

### **PRAYER:**

Heavenly Father, I know I would be willing to give *something* of myself for the salvation of others, but I don't know if I would be like Paul - willing to be forever cursed - for the salvation of others. Help me to grow in my ability to think of myself less and to think of the eternal salvation of others more. I pray in Jesus' name. Amen.

(End with 1-2 minutes of silence)

**F260 READING:** (A Scripture Reading Plan for Busy Believers).

**Read: John 11 & Matthew 21:1-13 (Week 35, Day 1)**

## **MAY 19:** BELIEVE IN CHRIST

(Begin with 1-2 minutes of silence)

In the Book of Romans, Chapters 9-11 seem to break from the flow of the rest of the letter. While scholars may debate the specific purpose of some portions from these chapters, others are quite clear.

One of the most clear passages is in Romans 10:9-11 which reads, *If you confess with your mouth that Jesus is Lord and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved. For it is by believing in your heart that you are made right with God, and it is by confessing with your mouth that you are saved. As the Scriptures tell us, "Anyone who trusts in him will never be disgraced."*

The NLT Study Bible notes that the Greek word for heart in Romans 10:9 is *kardia*. The heart is "... the inner person. It is closely related to soul, mind, and spirit. In some contexts there is an emphasis on thinking and understanding; in others the emphasis is on feeling and desiring; in still others the focus is on making choices."

Believing in Christ, therefore, impacts our thinking and understanding, our feelings, desires, and our choices.

## **READING & JOURNALING:**

### **ROMANS 10:1-21**

How would you explain to somebody what it means to believe in Christ, and the holistic impact that decision would make in their life?

### **PRAYER:**

Heavenly Father, today I recognize that the *heart* of my belief in Christ is all encompassing, and I pray that You would continue to break my heart for what breaks Yours, to love myself in the same way You love me, and to love others as You love them. May others know that I believe in Christ by my love for them. I pray in Jesus' name. Amen.

(End with 1-2 minutes of silence)

**F260 READING:** (A Scripture Reading Plan for Busy Believers)

**Read: John 13 (Week 35, Day 2)**

## **MAY 20: THE GRACE OF GOD**

**(Begin with 1-2 minutes of silence)**

Imagine what life would be like without the grace of God. It would be devastating.

While Romans 11 has some complexity to it, the theme of the grace of God in verse 6 is quite clear - God's grace is free and undeserved.

Paul writes about the endless grace of God elsewhere:

- The grace of God is the totality by which men and women are made righteous (see Romans 3:24; Titus 3:7).
- Grace is a state or condition in which we stand (see Romans 5:2).
- Grace extends to more and more people (see 2 Cor 4:15).
- To hold to the law is to nullify grace (see Galatians 2:21)
- The Christian is not under the law but under grace (see Romans 6:14.)
- Grace is opposed to what is owed (see Romans 4:4).
- The gospel itself, which is the good news of grace, can be called grace (see Acts 20:24) or the word of His grace (see Acts 14:3; 20:32).

## **MAY 21: GOD IS THE ULTIMATE GOAL**

**(Begin with 1-2 minutes of silence)**

Romans 11 ends with a profound truth: *You were made for God's glory.* While Paul doesn't use the word *you* here, he instead uses a much bigger word - *everything*.

Romans 11:36 reads, *For everything comes from him and exists by his power and is intended for his glory.*

The NLT Life Application Study Bible notes, "In the final analysis, all of us are absolutely dependent on God. He is the source of all things, including ourselves. He is the power that sustains and rules the world that we live in. And God works out all things to bring glory to himself. The all-powerful God deserves our praise."

Additionally, the NIV Zondervan Study Bible notes that if *everything* is intended for God's glory, this means the ultimate goal of all things must be God. It says, "God is the source, means, and goal of all things."

As you read today, consider this: What goals do you currently have in life? Is knowing and understanding God the ultimate goal of your life?

## **MAY 22: JOURNALING**

What have you learned about the grace of God this week? What have you learned about yourself?

**F260 READING:** (A Scripture Reading Plan for Busy Believers)

**Read: Matthew 24:1-31 (Week 35, Day 5)**

## **READING & JOURNALING:**

### **ROMANS 11:1-10**

With the help of a good Study Bible, write out your own definition of *Grace*. Also, write out three verses about the grace of God that stand out most to you.

Who is somebody you can share one (or all) of these verses with today, or sometime in the near future?

### **PRAYER:**

Heavenly Father, today I'm grateful for the reminder that Your grace is endless, and that the gospel message is ultimately a gospel of grace. Today, I simply want to thank You and praise You for your grace, and I ask for confidence to share passages about Your grace with others. I pray in Jesus' name. Amen.

**(End with 1-2 minutes of silence)**

**F260 READING:** (A Scripture Reading Plan for Busy Believers)

**Read: John 14 & 15 (Week 35, Day 3)**

## **READING & JOURNALING:**

### **ROMANS 11:33-36**

What goals do you currently have in life? Is knowing and understanding God the ultimate goal of your life?

### **PRAYER:**

Heavenly Father, there are times in my life when I have a clear goal I'm looking to accomplish, but there are other times when I feel helpless and lacking in direction. Today, I simply thank You for the reminder that the ultimate goal is to fulfill the Greatest Commandment, to love the Lord my God with my heart, soul, mind, and strength and to love my neighbor as myself. May I know you more and more each day. I pray in Jesus' name. Amen.

**(End with 1-2 minutes of silence)**

**F260 READING:** (A Scripture Reading Plan for Busy Believers)

**Read: John 16 (Week 35, Day 4)**

