

Salt Church

Romans 9:1-5

“God Over All”

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The Greatest Book Ever Written

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Recap last week:

Romans 8:37-38

37 But in all these things we overwhelmingly conquer through Him who loved us. 38 For I am convinced that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor rulers, nor things present, nor things to come, nor powers, 39 nor height, nor depth, nor any other created thing, will be able to separate us from the love of God, which is in Christ Jesus our Lord.

- ***From this we agreed that it is impossible to lose your salvation because:***
 - When God chose you for adoption, He knew what He was getting, why?
 - Because the scripture says that He sees the past and the future as clear as the present.
 - Meaning our failures and successes never surprise Him.
 - **He is “all in”** especially when we are not.
 - **We also agreed that we are created beings**

- Meaning “**nor any other created thing, will be able to separate us from the love of God,**”
 - Meaning that we cannot separate ourselves from God.

With that settled we move into one of the most important and difficult chapters in the entire Bible, Romans 9.

Setting the stage for today's text:

Philippians 2:12-13

¹² So then, my beloved, just as you have always obeyed, not as in my presence only, but now much more in my absence, **work out your salvation with fear and trembling;** ¹³ for it is God who is at work in you, both to will and to work for *His* good pleasure.

Let's look at it together

- Keep in mind Paul is trying to anticipate any questions that relate to Israel being replaced by the church.
 - **As we work through this,** we will discover that God will keep all of His promises made to the nation of Israel.
 - The Jews however, will come to see Paul as an enemy
 - and Paul begins this chapter attempting to express his genuine love for his people.

Why does Paul anticipate such arguments?

Acts 9:22

²² Saul's preaching became more and more powerful, and the Jews in Damascus couldn't refute his proofs that Jesus was indeed the Messiah. ²³ After a while some of the Jews plotted together to kill him.

- This occurred just a few days after his conversion.
- By the time Paul pins Romans he has had years of experience and is well aware of what his enemies are going to say.
- Romans 9, 10, & 11 are his response to their anticipated arguments.

Romans 9:1-5

9 I am telling the truth in Christ, I am not lying, my conscience testifies with me in the Holy Spirit,

- When someone says, ***"I'm telling the truth"***
 - I immediately think, they are going to lie, or they have been lying.
 - We know that this is not the case with scripture.

2 Timothy 3:16

¹⁶ All Scripture is God-breathed and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, for training in righteousness, ¹⁷ so that the man of God may be equipped, having been thoroughly equipped for every good work.

Romans 9:1-5

9 I am telling the truth in Christ, I am not lying, my conscience testifies with me in the Holy Spirit,

- It is also interesting the link between our conscience and the indwelling of the Holy Spirit.

Original Word: συνειδησις

Pronunciation: soo-nay'-day-sis

Phonetic Spelling: (soon-i'-day-sis)

KJV: conscience

NASB: conscience, conscience', consciences, consciousness

Word Origin: [from a prolonged form of [G4894 \(συνείδω - aware\)](#)]

1. co-perception, i.e. moral consciousness

- I take comfort in this,
 - This is in a very real sense “the praying without ceasing”
 - What I mean is that **I never think that I can have a thought without God knowing it.**
 - I find myself asking for forgiveness for sinful thoughts and thanking God for Holy Revelation throughout the day.
 - This also quickens me to keep my mouth shut when in the past I would have said something that was inappropriate.

But what about the unbeliever?

- What about their conscience?

Titus 1:15

¹⁵ Everything is pure to those whose hearts are pure. But nothing is pure to those who are corrupt and unbelieving, because their minds and consciences are corrupted.

Why is this important to understand?

- Because the conscience is controlled one of two things:
 - It can be controlled by the unregenerate heart or...
 - It will be controlled by The Holy Spirit

Basically, Paul is saying that with a clear conscience what he is about to say is going to sound unbelievable, but he wants us to know it is the truth because his conscience is controlled by The Holy Spirit.

² that I have great sorrow and unceasing grief in my heart.

- I read this and thought to myself, “this sounds like depression”
 - Did you know that it is not uncommon for the preacher or teacher of God’s Word to suffer from depression?
 - King David
 - King Solomon
 - Elijah
 - Jeremiah
 - Martin Luther
 - Charles Spurgeon
 - John Calvin
 - John Piper
 - Even your Pastor will struggle with it from time to time.

- Why?
 - It is a heavy burden to know the truth,
 - meaning I know that not everyone will accept nor respond to the Gospel of Jesus Christ.
 - I have and have had family members that reject or died rejecting Christ.
 - And nothing I said or could say can change that!
 - **It's heavy**
- This is what I believe Paul is saying.
 - Keep in mind this is on the heels of the closing of chapter 8 which was *"no one can ever separate from the love of God through Jesus Christ."*
 - All that goodness would be rejected by most of his fellow Israelites, and he knew it.

Paul continues:

³For I could wish that I myself were accursed, separated from Christ for the sake of my brothers,

- I can't say that with a clear conscience.
 - Jesus is my reason for living
 - He is my hope
 - And although I love my wife and children, I could never trade my position in Christ for them.
 - But I don't think that is what Paul is trying to convey.

- What he is saying is that it is not possible for him to trade places with them.
 - *“Nothing can separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus”*
- But if it were he would give himself up for their sake.

(side note)

This is not the first time a man of God has said such a thing for the Hebrew people.

- **Listen to Moses'** as he has confronted those that worshiped the golden calf that was made while he was receiving the Ten Commandments.

Exodus 32:30-33

³⁰ The next day Moses said to the people, “You have committed a terrible sin, but I will go back up to the Lord on the mountain. Perhaps I will be able to obtain forgiveness for your sin.”

³¹ So Moses returned to the Lord and said, “Oh, what a terrible sin these people have committed. They have made gods of gold for themselves. ³² But now, if you will only forgive their sin—but if not, erase my name from the record you have written!”

³³ But the Lord replied to Moses, “No, I will erase the name of everyone who has sinned against me.”

Now, what do we already know?

- Paul’s blood was not sinless and therefore could not pay for his own sin much less the sin of Israel.
 - The same can be said for Moses.

The point is this:

- Paul is truly heart broken over the rejection of Christ by his people.
 - Who are his people?

Paul is going to make sure we understand **who he is talking about:**

my kinsmen according to the flesh, (very important)

4 who are Israelites,

- These are the sons of Abraham **but not all the sons of Abraham**
 - What does that mean Pastor?
 - Ishmael was a son of Abraham and yet he was not the son of promise. (**Not a kinsman**)
 - Yes, he was blessed due to who his daddy was, but he was not the son of promise.
 - Isaac was the son of promise and Isaac had twin sons Esau and Jacob but only Jacob was the son of promise.
 - In fact, it is Jacobs name change by God that gives us the name “Israel.”

Back to Romans 9

to whom belongs the adoption as sons,

- What does Paul through the power of the Holy Spirit mean by this statement?
- In Romans 8 we learned that we had been adopted by God

Romans 8:15

*¹⁵ So you have not received a spirit that makes you fearful slaves. Instead, you received God's Spirit **when he adopted you as his own children. Now we call him, "Abba, Father."***

- But is this the same adoption that the Israelites share?
 - We shall discover the truth as we move through this chapter
 - but what I can do for you is **point you to what the Lord has said about His special people the Israelites**

Exodus 4:22

*²² Then you will tell him, **(Pharoh)** 'This is what the Lord says: Israel is my firstborn son. ²³ I commanded you, "Let my son go, so he can worship me." But since you have refused, I will now kill your firstborn son!'"*

Hosea 11:1

When Israel was a child, I loved him, and I called my son out of Egypt.

What' my point?

- They're not just a noble race.
 - They're the recipients of electing grace.
 - God loves them and has a plan for them.
 - But sadly not all of them will be saved.

Listen to Isaiah 46 (Israel is in rebellion)

3 “Listen to me, descendants of Jacob,
all you who remain in Israel.
I have cared for you since you were born.
Yes, I carried you before you were born.
4 I will be your God throughout your lifetime—
until your hair is white with age.
I made you, and I will care for you.
I will carry you along and save you.

*Back to Romans 9
and the glory*

- What is the glory?
 - It's the Shekinah presence of God.
 - Was that given to any other people?
 - **Did God dwell in the midst of any other people? No.**
 - God was in their tabernacle and their temple in their Holy of Holies, dwelling in light between the wings of the cherubim on their Ark of the Covenant.
 - When they came out of Egypt He gave them His glory and led them.
 - And when they built a tabernacle, His glory descended and dwelt therein.
 - It was the glory that appeared to them at Mount Sinai in Exodus chapter 24,
 - Exodus 33 and 34 that shown on the face of Moses, the glory that settled in the Mercy Seat

and the Holy of Holies and filled the temple in 1 Kings chapter 8.

- **It was the glory that was theirs.**
 - **God dwelt with these people.**
 - **This is no ordinary people.**
 - **God made them a noble people.**
 - **And then God drew them to Himself as His own and gave to them the privilege of His presence.**

and the covenants

- In our study in Genesis, we have learned of Gods covenant promise to Abraham and his decedents
- The promise of a land that they still have not fully received
- Those that bless them will be blessed and those that curse them will be cursed.
- The covenant of circumcision
 - An outward symbol of what should have happened on the inside.

and the giving of the Law

- Meaning that God gave the Hebrews the Law of Moses
 - A gift not only for them but the whole world
 - A gift upon which all law and order is based upon

and the temple service and the promises,

- It was God that gave them the command for sacrifice, to teach them that the wages of sin is death.
 - That was the purpose of the sacrificial system
 - It pointed to the sacrifice that Jesus would make in the future.

5 whose are the fathers,

- This would be all of the great Old Testament men
 - Abraham
 - Isaac
 - Jacob
 - King David
 - King Solomon
 - Elijah
 - Elisha
 - Samuel
 - Jeremiah
 - Joshua
 - Just to name a few

and from whom is the Christ according to the flesh,

- **Jesus was a Jew**
 - **This is why it is repeated over and over in the New Testament that salvation is first of the Jew and then the gentile**

who is God over all, blessed forever. Amen.

- **This is the point to all of these verses**

- **Jesus wasn't just for the Jews**
 - **Jesus is for everyone who will believe in their heart, confess with their mouth that Jesus is Lord.**