

# 03/06/22 Message

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Part of Romansthe Life of Faith - the Power of Grace

March 5, 2022

## Message: Torn Between Two Worlds

### Series: Romans

This is our eighth message in the series Romans: the Life of Faith – the Power of Grace.

As one of Paul's epistles (or letters), Romans is considered the greatest of all his letters. It's been called one of the most foundational documents of Christianity.

## Introduction

*The truth is – life is tough... and people are sometimes flaky... they change with the wind. In life you've probably experienced times when someone you care about – you know, you're watching them from a distance, and you see them hurt someone else. Maybe you see them walk away from a relationship that's good for them. Maybe they make a bad decision. Whatever it is, you see it – and you can't do anything about it – and it just weighs on you because you care about them so much. That's Paul... his sorrow... his burden... it's heavy! It's been said that when Paul looked at Jesus, he rejoiced but when Paul looked at the people, he wept... he cried. He was torn between two worlds.*

—Pastor Chad

You can see Paul wrestling with being torn in passages like:

### ***Philippians 1:22-24 (NLT)***

22 But if I live, I can do more fruitful work for Christ. So I really don't know which is better.

23 I'm torn between two desires: I long to go and be with Christ, which would be far better for me.

24 But for your sakes, it is better that I continue to live.

He was torn between two worlds!

### ***Romans 9:1-3 (NLT)***

1 With Christ as my witness, I speak with utter truthfulness. My conscience and the Holy Spirit confirm it.

2 My heart is filled with bitter sorrow and unending grief

3 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.

## **Paul's Audience**

Paul is saying, "I'm willing to forgo heaven if it means they will be saved," he then tells us who "they" are...

### ***Romans 9:4-5 (NLT)***

4 They are the people of Israel, chosen to be God's adopted children. God revealed his glory to them. He made covenants with them and gave them his law. He gave them the privilege of worshiping him and receiving his wonderful promises.

5 Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob are their ancestors, and Christ himself was an Israelite as far as his human nature is concerned. And he is God, the one who rules over everything and is worthy of eternal praise! Amen.

Paul has told them nothing can separate you from the love of God, but the Jewish people understand Paul is convicted about their sin. He revealed to the Roman church that sin separates them from God. Which is it?

Paul explains...

### ***Romans 9:6-8 (NLT)***

6 Well then, has God failed to fulfill his promise to Israel? No, for not all who are born into the nation of Israel are truly members of God's people!

7 Being descendants of Abraham doesn't make them truly Abraham's children. For the Scriptures say, "Isaac is the son through whom your descendants will be counted," though Abraham had other children, too.

8 This means that Abraham's physical descendants are not necessarily children of God. Only the children of the promise are considered to be Abraham's children.

If the Jews are God's "chosen" people, then how can they be "unchosen" – how can their relationship with God be in question? Paul shares that God's love is unchanging, but your identity in Christ has nothing to do with the family you are born into, or who you identify as – it is who you really are that counts.

## **A Remnant**

### ***Romans 9:27-28 (NLT)***

27 And concerning Israel, Isaiah the prophet cried out, "Though the people of Israel are as numerous as the sand of the seashore, only a remnant will be saved.

28 For the LORD will carry out his sentence upon the earth quickly and with finality."

*God is saying His love, His grace, His mercy, and His gift of salvation are so personal that even though it's offered to everyone – some are too caught up in their flesh, their world, some are too caught up in themselves to receive it! Paul is teaching the church – it doesn't matter what you think about yourself... it really doesn't matter what others think about you – it matters what God KNOWS about you! It matters who you are – in God's eyes!*

*—Pastor Chad*

### ***Romans 9:31-33 (NLT)***

31 But the people of Israel, who tried so hard to get right with God by keeping the law, never succeeded.

32 Why not? Because they were trying to get right with God by keeping the law instead of by trusting in him. They stumbled over the great rock in their path.

33 God warned them of this in the Scriptures when he said, "I am placing a stone in Jerusalem that makes people stumble, a rock that makes them fall. But anyone who trusts in him will never be disgraced."

[Romans 9:33a refers to Isaiah 8:14; Romans 9:33b refers to Isaiah

28:16]

***Isaiah 28:16 (HCSB)***

Therefore the Lord GOD said: “Look, I have laid a stone in Zion, a tested stone, a precious cornerstone, a sure foundation; the one who believes will be unshakable.

Jesus is the “Cornerstone” and when we unite with Him, we become (cf. 1 Peter 2:5) living stones!

Are you solid as a rock when it comes to your faith?

Are you torn between two worlds?

Jesus loves you – choose Jesus – follow Jesus today!