

# Lesson 8, ROMANS 9 & 10

Romans 8 could arguably be the pinnacle of Paul's letter to the Romans. At this point Paul has argued that no one is saved by their heritage or their works (deeds). It is only through faith in Jesus Christ that grace and salvation come to man. He makes it clear that even the difficulties that we encounter in life, the tragedies, the heartaches are all used by God to bring about His divine plan. And his plan is for our good.

In chapters 9 and 10, Paul looks to his Jewish brothers many of whom had not accepted Jesus of Nazareth as the long-awaited Messiah. His focus in Chapter 9 is the absolute sovereignty of God.

1. Read Romans 9:1-5. What is Paul's attitude? What does he say are the advantages of being a Jew?

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2. Read Romans 9:6-13. Paul is making a point that being in the lineage of Abraham does not automatically make you recipients of the covenant with God. Paul uses two important Jewish patriarchs as example: Isaac and Jacob. Read Genesis 17:17-21 about Isaac and Genesis 25:21-23 about Jacob. What is the common thread? What did John the Baptist say about the Abrahamic promise in Matthew 3:7-10?

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3. This brought up the question in verse 14, "Is God unjust?" Are we merely pawns on a chessboard that he moves at his will? Do we even have a choice? How does Paul answer this question in the rest of chapter 9? Isaiah 55:8-9 may help you.

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4. At this point Paul is driving home to the Jews that they cannot earn their way to being God's children with either heritage or works. What is the answer? See Romans 9:33 and Matthew 21:42-44. Who is the stone?

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In chapter 10, Paul looks at the responsibility man has to God's offer of righteousness.

5. Read chapter 10:1-13. The issue with the Jews was not lack of passion for the Living God. They were and still are zealous for God, but that passion was misplaced. The law was everything to them. What does Paul say about the law in verse 4? See also Acts 13:38,39. Then Paul quotes Moses about the law from Deuteronomy 30:12-14. Why do you think it was important to reach back to Moses words?

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6. What are the prerequisites for salvation according to verses 9-10? Paul looks to the Old Testament prophets to prove his argument. He combines Isaiah 28:16 and Isaiah 49:23 in verse 11 and quotes Joel 2:32 in verse 13. What do they say?

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7. The argument in the rest of chapter 10 is about answering the questions in verse 14. Again, Paul uses scriptures to make his points. What was his answer to the Jews claiming they “Did not hear?” and they “Did not understand?”. The last two Old Testament scriptures address Israel’s continued unfaithfulness to God and their rejection of Jesus as the Messiah. What do they say?

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8. Compare what Paul is saying in chapter 10 to the parable in Matthew 22:1-14.

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**APPLICATION:** God’s sovereignty and man’s choice or free will are a paradox that we cannot solve. When in your life have you bowed to Jesus being Lord of your life? In other words, when have you allowed Jesus to be the one driving the path of your life, the one to whom you turn to minute by minute.

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**PRAYER:** All powerful Father, your power and sovereignty seem beyond our feeble minds to grasp. Yet your motive is love. You describe yourself in scripture as a “compassionate and gracious God slow to anger and abounding in faithful love and truth.” (Exodus 34:6). Create in each of us the desire to bow to your will knowing that your love for us is complete and pure. Use your potters’ hands to mold and shape us to be all we can be as we follow your Son Jesus. Amen.