

**Romans 9:1-13**  
**For the week of September 10, 2023**

**Reflection**

1. What were some of the takeaways, for you, from Sunday's sermon?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
2. Were there questions, comments, concerns...?

**This section contains “unfinished business.” Although Paul has insisted on the priority of the Jew (1:16) and has noted in part his advantages (3:1ff), he has also been obligated to expose the Jews' failure and guilt, despite their being the chosen people of God. Those who have been under divine tutelage for centuries in preparation for the coming of the Messiah have failed to receive him. Has the purpose of God been frustrated? What does the future hold for this people? The problem faced here was underscored in Paul's own ministry. He had been faithful in going to the Jew first, but in place after place he had been rebuffed by Jewish unbelief. In Rome itself his strenuous effort to win a favorable verdict for the Lord Jesus Christ was to prove largely unsuccessful (Acts 28). Was his earlier statement about the power of the gospel (1:16) too hasty, too optimistic? Or were his own labors among his people inadequate? Paul could not subscribe to either conclusion. He had to face the problem from the standpoint of God's purposes and ways.**

*The Expositor's Bible Commentary*

**Observation** (vs. 1-5)

3. What is the theme(s) of these verses?

**Interpretation**

4. Why is Paul grieving and anguishing?

5. What does verse three mean?

**Application**

6. How do you handle a nation that rejects Christ?

7. How do you handle relatives, friends, and those close to you who reject Christ?

**Observation** (vs. 6-9)

8. What point(s) is Paul making to the Roman church?

**Interpretation**

9. Compare and contrast these verses to Genesis 21:12, Matthew 7:21-23, and Romans 2:28-29.

**Application**

10. Are there times when it seems God has abandoned His purpose? Why or why not?

**Observation** (vs. 10-13)

11. What is Paul saying?

**Interpretation**

12. Why does Paul compare Esau and Jacob to Ishmael and Isaac?

13. Why does Paul cite Malachi 1:2-3?

14. Is the statement in verse 13 hyperbolic or literal? Is this more about the sons or nations? See also Luke 14:26.

**Application**

15. How do these verses speak of God's sovereignty to you?

16. How do you reconcile God's sovereignty in your life?