

SCRIPTURE: Romans 9:1-13 TITLE: Chosen for the Gospel

Intro: Moishe Rosen. "When I first heard the Gospel of Jesus, I didn't want to know that it was true, because it would have meant that my family would disown me; my friends would desert me, that if I let myself believe in Jesus, I would be an outcast. What I didn't realize was that I had no choice in the matter, because if I said that Jesus wasn't the promised Messiah or the Bible wasn't true, I would know that I was a liar." Started Mission Agency "Jews for Jesus." 250 staff worldwide. Reached thousands for Christ.

This is on the tail of laying out a huge and multilayered explanation and gospel rant on the wonder of God's grace and love and the power of the Spirit. What's **Paul's instinctual desire?** His first thought after remembering the beauty of the gospel for him as a recovering Pharisee? **"I wish my people would believe this! I wish I could convince them. Oh what I would give! Even my own life and salvation!"**

Thesis: God is Sovereign and Good in His Gracious Choosing

I. Paul's Choice (1-5)

- A. **v1-2. Deep conviction**, care, hurting, sadness, sorrow, anguish, grief, etc.
 - i. *Why after all this Good News?! Such Good News!* B/c of all those who don't believe.
 - ii. *Do you care deeply about those who don't know Christ?* Does your heart break for the lost?
- B. **v3. Not only the lost generally, but "my people."** My Fam! Kinsmen. Blood relatives.
- C. **v.4-5. This is Israel we're talking about!** Adoption, Glory, Covenants, Law, Worship, Promises, Patriarchs and the blood relatives of the Christ! The God-Man!
 - i. **It's possible for them to miss it.** To miss the Christ. Their own Savior which they produced.
 - ii. **Thy did miss it. Most of them anyways.**

APPLICATION:

1. **I knew His love/grace were good.** Never knew they were this good. **Who can I tell?**

ILLUSTRATION: I loved my dogs. I wept. That was my dog. He was my dog. My kids love our current dog. I'll cry for them.:-) **Dog grave.** Cross. Jesus didn't die for dogs. He died for sinners. Sinners are ppl. I don't know if you'll see your dog in heaven. **But who do you want to see there?**

2. **The reason Paul wanted to help his people was in part b/c of his own story. You?**
3. **If Paul had his way, all the Jews would be saved.** Wasn't God's plan in the end. Learn to trust/submit to God's plan. Respond w/ humble thanks; pray/work for others to believe. **We don't choose.**

II. God's Choice (6-13)

- A. **v6-7.** There are biological/geographical Israelites, but they are not the True Israel. True children of Abraham and Children of God, His chosen people, are those who believe in the promises and the fulfillment of those promises - which is Jesus, the Messiah (The Christ). **The Chosen One.**
- B. **By faith all can be sons of Abraham and of God. Galatians 3:25-4:7.**
- C. **v8.** Those who believe the promise are adopted as God's children. True people of God, those who believe. Not according to the flesh. Not the genetically, hereditary, geographical people of Israel. **John 8:37-47. Possible to be a biological child of Abraham, but not true child.**
- D. **Not necessarily the biological Jews. Related by Blood. Those who believe in The Blood.**
- E. **v9.** Sarah had Isaac because Ishmael was not counted though he was a child of Abraham.
- F. **v10-11.** God chose who would be his (**purpose of election**) before lived, worked, did anything. It was his sovereign and gracious choice, born of love. **Same is true for us and our salvation.**
- G. **Why did He choose them/us? Because of His LOVE. Deuteronomy 7:6-8.**
- H. **v12-13.** God chose Jacob. To love him. Use him. Then called and changed Him. That's how He works. How He still works. He calls his people whom He has chosen before the foundations of the world to be saved, adopted and holy. **Ephesians 1:3-10.**

ILLUSTRATION: "It's ok, we're Steve Suits kids!" uh...ok. But, they didn't own anymore! **Still worked!**

APPLICATION:

1. **He's including us now in this Promise!** This is a big deal. Gentiles. No wonder they were upset!
2. **When you read OT, every reference to Israel, that's us! That's me! The Church!** Loved, Chosen, set apart, Holy, His, Bride, Child, His People, Apple of His eye.
3. **That's why Paul is distressed.** He knows many Jews will presume salvation. "All good. We've got Abraham as our father." John Baptist: "Children of Abraham from stones." **Matt. 3:8-10.**
4. **There is only one plan of salvation. Jesus. One way. Faith in Him. Messiah/Christ.**
5. **What about physical Israel? Pray. How? Turn to Christ. Believe. - Robert Murray McCheyene. "Do to Israel" Preach Christ. Tell them about Jesus Messiah. Not entitled. Care for Uyghurs too.**

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CONCLUSION. Why is Paul saying all of this. He's trying to help his own people see their need for Christ and their need to turn to him in faith and repentance. Not to presume upon God's kindness.

It's because of his own experience and knowledge and what he's come to see and understand and believe about Jesus, that he is able to speak to this subject with wisdom and depth.

Your Story's Important. Needed. Each other. God wants to use your story to connect other people to Jesus and His story. KFRED. "I need your story so I know there's hope for my kids." Comfort.

What is your story? What are the details of your story?

Anxiety? Death and Loss? Old age? Pain? Abused? Advantaged? Doubt? Assured?

- **Former Liars.** Truth. Best truth tellers are former chronically liars.
- **Most generous people are/were poor/homeless.** Poverty normal.Sacrifice.Hunger.
- **Former sex addict** most loving men and respecter of women.
- **Overweight.** Cook and hospitality.
- **People who've struggled w/ Depression/suicide.** Most Joyful/Hopeful ppl.
- **Christian Home?** Or just a good and orderly home? Come with a pressure to perform? Excel?
- **Hardworking Family,** but not much on emotional connection? Relationship more important.

Beggars. Kids candy. Fishing hole. Sick well. Leper. Matthew tax collector.

OCD. Overthink. Peace.

NF. Happy. The Search. Hope. Just like you. Why'd you leave us? Nate.

"Friendship is born at that moment when one person says to another, 'What! You too? I thought I was the only one.'" C.S. Lewis

Shame= my story is unique. Worse. Special. I'm worse. Dirty. Broken.

- **Hunter. Grandpa.** Vulnerability and honesty is attractive. You start telling your story. Ppl seek you out because they feel safe. Shared story.

"It's a long story." We want to hear it! We need YOU and your story just as much as you need us.

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