

**WEEK 9: God's Plan For Israel – Romans 9-11**

March 3, 2016

*Many of the people of Israel are now enemies of the Good News, and this benefits you Gentiles. Yet they are still the people he loves because he chose their ancestors Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob. For God's gifts and his call can never be withdrawn. Once, you Gentiles were rebels against God, but when the people of Israel rebelled against him, God was merciful to you instead. Now they are the rebels, and God's mercy has come to you so that they, too, will share in God's mercy. For God has imprisoned everyone in disobedience so he could have mercy on everyone.— Romans 11:28-32*  
NLT

Paul has spent a great deal of time talking about Israel's failure to accept Jesus as their Messiah. They stumbled over the stumbling block, neglecting to see Him as the source of their salvation and any hope they had for attaining a right standing before God. And their rejection actually paved the way for the gospel to go to the Gentiles, so that we might be grafted in and included in God's family. But God is not done with Israel. His promises to them still stand. He is a faithful God who never fails to carry out what He has committed to do. And while a partial hardening has come upon Israel, until the fullness of the Gentiles has come in, the day is coming when the tables will turn and God will redeem His chosen people once again.

**Take Notes (Teaching):**

As you listen to today's lesson, write down anything significant that you hear. Be ready to share them with the men at your table during the discussion time.

- **Take Part (Discussion):**

Sometimes God has a way of speaking through others as they provide insights or different applications from the lessons. As you discuss around your table, write down anything you hear that makes an impact on you. Or if you hear another man share a struggle or concern, write it down so that you can pray for him during the week.

- **Take Time (Prayer):**

Be sure and leave a few minutes for the sharing of prayer requests. Remember, keep your requests short and sweet. Don't let the details bog you down. We don't have to understand all that is going on to pray effectively.

# HOMework

## Homework for week 10 – Our Righteousness In Action – Romans 12-14

- Read chapters 12-14, taking careful note of any repetitive words or phrases. Be on the lookout for anything that catches your attention or raises a question. Write them down here:

- It is in these chapters that Paul takes a highly practical turn, moving from the deeper doctrinal discussions regarding righteousness, salvation, justification, sanctification and glorification. This is where he begins to apply all that he has talked about and gives it a rubber-meets-the-road treatment.

What do you think these two phrases found in verses 1-2 of chapter twelve mean? Give some everyday examples of what they might look like.

*I plead with you to give your bodies to God because of all he has done for you. Let them be a living and holy sacrifice—the kind he will find acceptable. (NLT).*

*Don't copy the behavior and customs of this world, but let God transform you into a new person by changing the way you think. (NLT)*

- What do you learn from verses 3-8?
- As you go back over verses 9-21, what are the marks or characteristics listed? Write them down here:

- In verses 1-7 of chapter 13, what does Paul teach us regarding our relationship with the civil government? How would that reflect our Christ-likeness to those around us?

- Now read Romans 13:8-10. What does it have in common with the following passages?

Matthew 22:34-40 –

Leviticus 19:18 –

Galatians 5:13-15 –

John 13:34 –

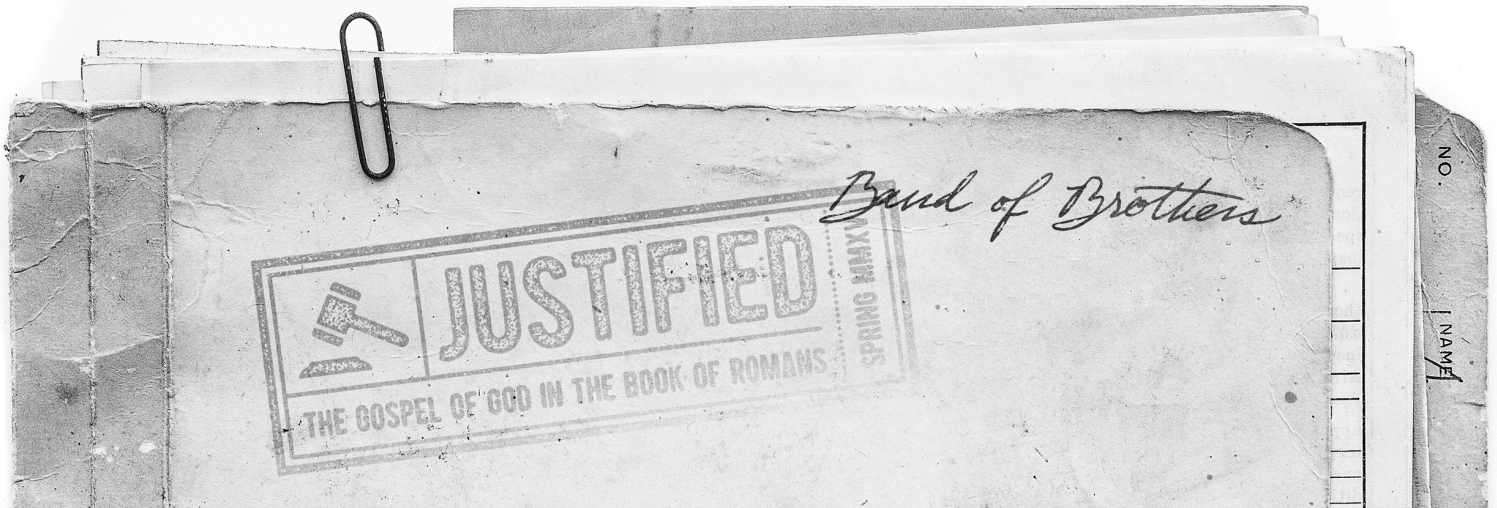
- Verses 13-23 seem to concentrate on our relationships with our fellow believers.

Why is it important that we not pass judgment on one another?

In what ways could we cause a brother or sister to stumble?

How could our legitimate rights as believers get in the way of a weaker brother or sister growing in Christ?

- Look at verse 19. What should we pursue that “makes for peace and for mutual upbuilding” of the body of Christ?



## WEEK 9: God's Plan For Israel: Romans 9-11

A recurring argument that confronted Paul in his ongoing dialogue with his lost Jewish brethren was: If Israel with all its immense spiritual privileges is rejected, then God's word has failed. Paul's answer was that throughout their history God had repeatedly demonstrated that he operates by sovereign choice. Thus Isaac had been chosen over Ishmael and Jacob over Esau. Moses and Pharaoh provided further examples. God is the potter, humanity is the clay, and God can do as he pleases. Let God be true and every man a liar. And so from Heaven we have the majestic, inscrutable doctrine of God's sovereign election. This is a marvelous doctrine to be believed, though we cannot fully understand it. – R. Kent Hughes, *Romans: Righteousness From Heaven*

- **Unsearchable judgments. Inscrutable ways.**

*Oh, the depth of the riches and wisdom and knowledge of God! How unsearchable are his judgments and how inscrutable his ways!* – Romans 11:33 ESV

Knowledge – *gnōsis* – general intelligence, understanding

Wisdom – *sophia* – supreme intelligence, such as belongs to God

Judgments – *krima* – condemnation of wrong, the decision (whether severe or mild) which one passes on the faults of others

- God's way of thinking, feeling and deciding is beyond our capacity to comprehend!

*For my thoughts are not your thoughts, neither are your ways my ways, declares the Lord. For as the heavens are higher than the earth, so are my ways higher than your ways and my thoughts than your thoughts.* – Isaiah 55:8-9 ESV

- **God's sovereignty** – chapter 9

- Paul longed for the people of Israel to be saved
- But the majority of them had rejected Jesus as their Messiah
- Not all Jews would be saved
- The past pattern of election – God's choosing
  - Isaac over Ishmael
    - Ishmael – the child of the flesh
    - Isaac – the child of the promise
  - Jacob over Esau
    - Based on mercy, not merit (9:11)
    - Up to God's divine prerogative (9:16)
- Who are we to question God?

- He is the potter, we are the clay
- God can do as He so chooses
- He can choose as He sees fit
- He does not have to explain Himself to man

- **Man's responsibility** – chapter 10

- A paradox
  - God elects or chooses who will be saved
  - But Paul longs for the salvation of the Jews
  - Why would God hold responsible those who have not believed when it is He who makes the decision who will be chosen? (Romans 9:19)

Now this is where some of the mystery of God's work in election manifests itself. God's offer of salvation is valid to all, and yet those who respond do so because they are the elect of God before the foundation of the world was laid. And those who do not come to Christ are blameworthy because the Bible never says that people are lost because they are nonelect. The lost are lost because they refuse to believe. These two truths may appear to be mutually exclusive, but the Bible teachers both and hold both in perfect balance. – Tony Evans, *Theology You Can Count On*

- Men are still called on to believe
- We are still commanded to share

*How then will they call on him in whom they have not believed? And how are they to believe in him of whom they have never heard?<sup>[c]</sup> And how are they to hear without someone preaching?<sup>15</sup> And how are they to preach unless they are sent? As it is written, "How beautiful are the feet of those who preach the good news!" – Romans 10:14-15 ESV*

The Scriptures never say, "Try to determine whether you are elect." They say instead: *Believe in the Lord Jesus, and you will be saved.* – Acts 16:31 ESV

*But to all who did receive him, who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God.* – John 1:12 ESV

- **Israel's Destiny** – chapter 11

- God will restore Israel, in spite of their rejection
- God has not rejected His people (Romans 11:2)
- He is not done with Israel yet
- Paul was part of a chosen remnant (chosen by grace) – Romans 11:5
  - Chosen – *eklogē* – (ek-lah-gay) – the act of picking out, choosing; a thing or person chosen
- God has hardened some and chosen others
- He has temporarily excluded some, while including others
- But God will graft back in the Jewish people (Romans 11:23)
- They are experiencing a "partial hardening" (Romans 11:25)
- But God will show mercy on whom He will show merc
- His ways are not our ways!