

Devotional Questions – Romans 9:1-13

1. *What are the phrases that describe Paul's sincerity and feelings (Romans 9:2)?*
2. *Why would Paul allow himself to feel the deep emotional pain, what can we learn from Paul's deep concern (Romans 9:2)?*
3. *What are the ways that show the privileged position of the Israelites as the people of God (Romans 9:4-5)?*
4. *Has God's word failed at all – can it ever (Romans 9:6)?*
5. *How does this connect with Romans 8:35-36, 38-39?*
6. *What does it mean that 'they are not all Israel who are descended from Israel'* (Romans 9:6)?*
*The correct expression is **“For they are not all Israel, which are of Israel”** Romans 9:6 because Paul designates saved Jews as **“the Israel of God”** Galatians 6:16 and not all Jews are of this Israel. The NIV confuses the reader by unnecessary allusion to both the nation of Israel and its patriarchal founder Jacob, Genesis 32:28.
7. *What does Paul teach us about salvation? What two things is salvation not based on (Romans 9:11-12)?*
 - a.
 - b.
8. *Why does God say that He 'hated' Esau (Romans 9:13)?*

Devotional Questions – Romans 9:1-13, Answers to Questions

See Dr Ruckman's commentary *The Book of Romans* pp 347-365 and the *Ruckman Reference Bible* p 1499 for detailed comment.

1. *What are the phrases that describe Paul's sincerity and feelings (Romans 9:2)?*

Romans 9:2 states ***"That I have great heaviness and continual sorrow in my heart."*** Paul's distress was burdensome and on-going because it was of the heart and Paul states in Romans 10:1 ***"Brethren, my heart's desire and prayer to God for Israel is, that they might be saved"*** and that prayer had not been answered. It will be, as Paul himself states.

"And so all Israel shall be saved: as it is written, There shall come out of Sion the Deliverer, and shall turn away ungodliness from Jacob" Romans 11:26.

Today's believer as Paul should therefore follow King David's exhortation with respect to the fulfilment of ***"my heart's desire."*** ***"Wait on the LORD: be of good courage, and he shall strengthen thine heart: wait, I say, on the LORD."*** Psalm 27:14.

2. *Why would Paul allow himself to feel the deep emotional pain, what can we learn from Paul's deep concern (Romans 9:2)?*

See *Question 1*. Paul could not filter out his distress because as indicated it was of the heart and therefore Paul could not rest until God fulfilled arguably His greatest promise to Israel. ***"For this is the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel after those days, saith the Lord; I will put my laws into their mind, and write them in their hearts: and I will be to them a God, and they shall be to me a people"*** Hebrews 8:10. Today's believer should therefore apply King David's exhortation, *noting the promised blessing thereby*.

"Pray for the peace of Jerusalem: they shall prosper that love thee" Psalm 122:6.

3. *What are the ways that show the privileged position of the Israelites as the people of God (Romans 9:4-5)*

- ***"The adoption" as "a special people."*** ***"For thou art an holy people unto the LORD thy God: the LORD thy God hath chosen thee to be a special people unto himself, above all people that are upon the face of the earth"*** Deuteronomy 7:6 with Deuteronomy 14:2.
- ***"The glory" as a "people saved by the LORD."*** ***"Happy art thou, O Israel: who is like unto thee, O people saved by the LORD, the shield of thy help, and who is the sword of thy excellency! and thine enemies shall be found liars unto thee; and thou shalt tread upon their high places"*** Deuteronomy 33:29.
- ***"The covenants" as a people deemed worthy of compassion.*** ***"And the LORD was gracious unto them, and had compassion on them, and had respect unto them, because of his covenant with Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob, and would not destroy them, neither cast he them from his presence as yet"*** 2 Kings 13:23.
- ***"The giving of the law" as a people "who received the lively oracles"*** Acts 7:38. ***"Thou camest down also upon mount Sinai, and spakest with them from heaven, and gavest them right judgments, and true laws, good statutes and commandments"*** Nehemiah 9:13.
- ***"The services of God" as a people potentially "a kingdom of priests."*** ***"Now therefore, if ye will obey my voice indeed, and keep my covenant, then ye shall be a peculiar treasure unto me above all people: for all the earth is mine: And ye shall be unto me a kingdom of priests, and an holy nation. These are the words which thou shalt speak unto the children of Israel"*** Exodus 19:5-6.

- ***“The promises” as a people of a promise-keeping God.*** **“Blessed be the LORD, that hath given rest unto his people Israel, according to all that he promised: there hath not failed one word of all his good promise, which he promised by the hand of Moses his servant”** 1 Kings 8:56.
- ***“The fathers” as a people of God’s Fatherhood.*** **“And thou shalt say unto Pharaoh, Thus saith the LORD, Israel is my son, even my firstborn”** Exodus 4:22.
- ***“Of whom as concerning the flesh Christ” as a people of “the Messiah the Prince”*** Daniel 9:25. **“But thou, Bethlehem Ephratah, though thou be little among the thousands of Judah, yet out of thee shall he come forth unto me that is to be ruler in Israel; whose goings forth have been from of old, from everlasting”** Micah 5:2.

Today’s believer can take encouragement from Colossians 2:9-10 **“For in him dwelleth all the fulness of the Godhead bodily. And ye are complete in him, which is the head of all principality and power.”**

4. *Has God’s word failed at all – can it ever (Romans 9:6)?*

No, in each respect, as Romans 9:6 states ***“Not as though the word of God hath taken none effect...”*** in that as the Lord said through Isaiah **“So shall my word be that goeth forth out of my mouth: it shall not return unto me void, but it shall accomplish that which I please, and it shall prosper in the thing whereto I sent it”** Isaiah 55:11.

5. *How does this connect with Romans 8:35-36, 38-39?*

The connection is by means of the stabilisation effect of 2 Corinthians 1:20-21 **“For all the promises of God in him are yea, and in him Amen, unto the glory of God by us. Now he which stablisheth us with you in Christ, and hath anointed us, is God.”**

6. *What does it mean that ‘they are not all Israel who are descended from Israel’* (Romans 9:6)?*

*The correct expression is ***“For they are not all Israel, which are of Israel”*** Romans 9:6 because Paul designates saved Jews as ***“the Israel of God”*** Galatians 6:16 and not all Jews are of this Israel. The NIV confuses the reader by unnecessary allusion to both the nation of Israel and its patriarchal founder Jacob, Genesis 32:28.

7. *What does Paul teach us about salvation? What two things is salvation not based on (Romans 9:11-12)?*

Concerning what salvation is not based upon:

- a. ***“neither...good or evil.”***

“Though I might also have confidence in the flesh. If any other man thinketh that he hath whereof he might trust in the flesh, I more...But what things were gain to me, those I counted loss for Christ. Yea doubtless, and I count all things but loss for the excellency of the knowledge of Christ Jesus my Lord: for whom I have suffered the loss of all things, and do count them but dung, that I may win Christ, And be found in him, not having mine own righteousness, which is of the law, but that which is through the faith of Christ, the righteousness which is of God by faith” Philippians 3:4, 7-9.

“This is a faithful saying, and worthy of all acceptation, that Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners; of whom I am chief” 1 Timothy 1:15.

- b. ***“not of works.”*** **“Not by works of righteousness which we have done, but according to his mercy he saved us, by the washing of regeneration, and renewing of the Holy Ghost”** Titus 3:5.

Romans 9:11-12 is not, however, addressing individual church age salvation. It is addressing, see Romans 9:5, the continuation of the Messianic line i.e. that of the Lord Jesus Christ with respect to the Lord's everlasting ruler-ship following the Second Advent, from which Esau and his line were excluded, as Luke and Paul show.

“He shall be great, and shall be called the Son of the Highest; and the Lord God shall give unto him the throne of his father David: And he shall reign over the house of Jacob for ever; and of his kingdom there shall be no end” Luke 1:32-33.

“Now to Abraham and his seed were the promises made. He saith not, And to seeds, as of many; but as of one, And to thy seed, which is Christ” Galatians 3:16.

Today's believer should therefore remember with a view to steadfastness in following the Lord Jesus Christ according to Luke 22:28 **“Ye are they which have continued with me in my temptations”** Paul's exhortation and admonition **“It is a faithful saying: For if we be dead with him, we shall also live with him: If we suffer, we shall also reign with him: if we deny him, he also will deny us”** 2 Timothy 2:11-12.

8. *Why does God say that He 'hated' Esau (Romans 9:13)?*

Esau rejected God so God rejected Esau after the manner of Hebrews 10:38 **“Now the just shall live by faith: but if any man draw back, my soul shall have no pleasure in him”** as Paul shows with a further exhortation to today's believer with respect to steadfastness in following the Lord Jesus Christ according to Luke 22:28 **“Ye are they which have continued with me in my temptations.”**

“Looking diligently lest any man fail of the grace of God...Lest there be any fornicator, or profane person, as Esau, who for one morsel of meat sold his birthright. For ye know how that afterward, when he would have inherited the blessing, he was rejected: for he found no place of repentance, though he sought it carefully with tears” Hebrews 12:15-17.

Dr Bob Jones Snr. said *“Don't sacrifice the permanent on the altar of the immediate.”*

See strader.cehd.tamu.edu/BobJonesQuotes.php.

One aspect of life where Paul's exhortation and that of Dr Bob have practical application is with respect to a young man who becomes infatuated with a young woman or vice versa and the Lord says **“Neither hath the LORD chosen this”** 1 Samuel 16:8, 9.

That young person needs to understand and to cling to the scriptural encouragement from King David that heartache is temporary through going with God, Luke 22:28, not the relationship.

“...weeping may endure for a night, but joy cometh in the morning” Psalm 30:5.