

## **Romans 9**

1-2 My conscience confirms it in the HS... interesting verification of truth. I.e.: "I believe it, but I have this confirmation." Some would label him "anti-Semitic" because of taking the Gospel to the Gentile and so he emphasizes here that what he is about to write is the real heart of Paul. Instead of animosity because of their opposition he is in constant anguish for his race. Paul was willing to carry a burden to a depth few of us would accept. Exodus 32:32

3-4 What a burden placed on the heart of a child of God for the lost! Paul is sharing the heart of Christ. He would die in their place just as Christ did for us. How much they, as a people, have! No other race has been called sons of God, seen His divine glory on the mountain, received the covenants (blood, salt), receiving the law with its types and shadows of Christ, temple worship with its rich symbolism, promises to the patriarchs and Moses and the prophets. Sons-Exodus 4:22; glory-Psalm 63:2; covenants- Genesis 17:7; Law -Nehemiah 9:13-14; Temple worship-Exodus 12:25; Promises- Acts 13:32-33

5 The lineage of Christ is in Israel. What an awesome privilege they had as a people.

6 When you look at those promises you would think from a human perspective many were not fulfilled. But when you understand that those who have faith are descendents of the father of faith Abraham and therefore are spiritual Israel then you begin to see them all fulfilled. 2:28-29

7-8 Genesis 21:12 Isaac was the son of promise, of faith, an impossible birth. He is saying that those birthed by faith in God are really the sons of Abraham. Just because you are an Israelite doesn't mean you are a child of faith. WOE! The Jews did not want to hear that, but I think it must have been witnessed in their hearts, birth in a certain family does not give you a ticket to heaven. Even today we can say, just because the parents are Christians doesn't mean the children necessarily are. They must come to a personal faith. God has never changed his plan. We come to Him by faith from Genesis to Revelation. Galatians 3:26-29

9 Genesis 18:10,14 Birthed of the promise. Am I a child of the promise? John 3:3

10 She, too, had a problem with bearing children. Genesis 25:21 His sons were birthed through prayer. Do you think the enemy did not want these births in the line of the Messiah and so tried to stop them, but in so doing unwittingly showed that the second-birth is by faith? He wants to stop our second-birth as well.

11-12 That is the picture of promise (a work of God) not natural strength. It would continue to be consistent with faith in God.

The older serving the younger happens several times in the OT. It happened with Joseph's children before the law. It happened with the patriarchs and David. I think God was giving examples so that when the future laws pertaining to daily life came, they could look back and see that those laws were not as rigid as they believed. Contrary to inheritance laws, God chooses to destine the younger to receive the birthright.

The old man must serve the new man! The point here is still that it is not a lineage of natural reproduction but the will of God and through faith in His word.

13 God is Sovereign. The topic of predestination rises. God chose before anything was done! Did God foreknow how they would act? Of course He did. Did that determine this statement at birth? Did Jacob's belief in the promise, his faith that it was of value, have anything to do with it? Is faith a work? Did God call them both but only Jacob would respond? Is it a choice because of foreknowledge or an arbitrary choice? Did God empower Jacob to believe but not Esau? God has a purpose in election. Now remember what God's purpose is? Ephesians 1:9-14, 3:8-12, Romans 8:28-31, Hebrews 2:10 The verse quoted is in Malachi 1:2,3. Deuteronomy 2:5 Sheds some light on this - If hate is the correct word, we find it has a very different outworking than we would imagine. God specifically provided for them and kept them from their enemies. In Luke 14:26 it is used in relation to how we should see our family relative to Christ. Perhaps there is somewhat of a relative sense here also considering how their lives played out. The main point up to this verse is that God has a picture of the inheritance being a Divine work through faith, not natural means.

14 God alone is JUST. Let God be found true and every man a liar. If there is injustice in God there is no hope for any. If we think God just arbitrarily chooses on a whim is that justice? Not for man but God has purpose in his choices that are always pure and just.

15 Exodus 33:19 We are his creation and He can do with us what He will. Yet, we also know He limits himself by His attributes, all of which are purer and more righteous than we can imagine. Paul said that God chose him to show how powerful He is. In other words, God picked the weak to pour His power through so man would know it is not man but God at work. The point is still faith and not works. It is a work of God, not man's effort. 1Corinthians 2:3-5