



God's Sovereign Mercy

Romans 9

Something to Start Us Off

- Do you feel (or have you ever felt) deep sorrow or anguish for someone you love who doesn't know Christ? Can you describe that feeling?

Something to Notice

Let's read Romans 9 slowly and mark phrases that reveal God's sovereignty and/or mercy. Here are some that might stand out to us.

- 9:1-3 Paul's great sorrow and anguish for his fellow Israelites
- 9:4-5 The great privileges given to Israel
- 9:6-13 "Not all who are descended from Israel belong to Israel" — God's choice (Isaac over Ishmael, Jacob over Esau)
- 9:14-18 God's mercy and hardening (example of Pharaoh)
- 9:19-24 The potter and the clay — God's right to show mercy or wrath
- 9:25-29 God calls Gentiles "my people" and saves a remnant of Israel

Something to Learn

Key Insights:

* Romans 9–11 answers a pressing question: Has God's word failed because most of Israel has rejected the Messiah? Paul's answer is a strong "No!" (9:6).

* The chapter highlights both God's mercy (calling Gentiles and a remnant of Jews) and human responsibility (Israel stumbled because they pursued righteousness by works instead of by faith).

Discussion Questions:

- What can we learn from Paul's deep sorrow for his fellow Jews (vv. 1–3)?
- Israel received many great privileges (vv. 4–5). Why do you think most still rejected Christ?
- What does the potter-and-clay illustration (vv. 19–24) teach us about God's rights and character?
- In vv. 30–33, Gentiles attain righteousness by faith while Israel stumbles. What warning or encouragement does this give us today?

Something to Take Home

- Memorize and/or meditate on Romans 9:16 this week. Let this chapter deepen your trust in God's all-wise plans — even when we don't fully understand what He is doing.