

## Never Ashamed!

### *Romans 9:22-33*

**Thought for the Day:** The person who trusts in Christ alone for salvation will never be put to shame!

In Romans 9 Paul contemplates the sovereignty of God in His dealings with the people of Israel and the resulting spread of the Gospel among the Gentiles. He seeks to answer the question, "Is God unjust or unfair for setting aside Israel and offering salvation to the Gentiles?"

### **Romans 9:22-24**

- Paul was writing to explain what God was doing at the beginning of the Church Age but what he wrote is still applicable, relevant and helpful for us who are living at the end of the Church Age.
- Many Christian leaders believe that God is setting aside the U.S.A. and offering the Gospel to many people, especially among the Muslim nations, those countries that hate America and want to see her destroyed.
  - Like the Jews of Paul's day, we may be tempted to say, "Wait! That's not fair! We are God's chosen people! How can God do that!"
  - The lessons of humility, submission to God and repentance from sin become very real and relevant for us today!
  - 2 Chronicles 7:14 [needs to be a personal roadmap for each of us in our relationship with the Lord] – "...if my people, who are called by my name, will humble themselves and pray and seek my face and turn from their wicked ways, then will I hear from heaven and will forgive their sin and will heal their land."
- God was setting Israel aside because of her unbelief, sin and rebellion against God. She had rejected her Messiah; therefore, God was rejecting her.
  - God had been very patient with Israel; His judgment did not fall on the land for another 10 or 12 years after Paul's letter to Rome.
  - He does not want anyone to perish but everyone to come to repentance and be saved!
  - But in His time, His judgment will come and His holiness, righteousness and justice will be displayed in the pouring out of His wrath on those who *have prepared themselves for destruction* by their own disobedience and unbelief.
  - And on the other hand, God will display His love, grace and compassion by pouring out His mercy on *those whom He is preparing* for eternity in heaven in His presence.
  - If we have put our faith in Jesus Christ for salvation, it is God who is preparing us for glory and it is God who will get all the glory—and for all of eternity, we will be a trophy of His love, grace and mercy! (Romans 8:28-30)

### **Romans 9:25-26**

- Gentiles, as well as Jews, who put their faith in Jesus Christ are now called the people of God, His beloved ones and sons (or children) of the living God.

- If we are living in a nation that is under the judgment of God, how should we then live? What are the priorities?
  - 1 Peter 2:9-10 – declare the praises of Him who called us out of darkness into His wonderful light.
  - 1 John 3:1-3 – purify yourself from sin and set your hope on heaven.
  - Matthew 28:18-20 – go and make disciples, knowing that the Lord is with you in all times and in all places.
  - **Know** – Know and love the Lord by pursuing intimate relationship with Him.
  - **Grow** – Grow and become like the Lord by cultivating Christlike character and conduct.
  - **Show** – Go and show the Lord to others through faithful and fruitful service (evangelism of the sinners and edification of the saints).

### **Romans 9:27-29**

- Well, if this is what God is doing—setting aside the nation of Israel and offering the Gospel to the Gentiles—Judgment for the Jews and Grace for the Gentiles—then is God trustworthy? Does He keep His promises?
  - Absolutely! What was happening in Paul’s day had been foretold by the prophets hundreds of years in advance. God was simply keeping His Word!
  - Can we trust God today even though we are living in a nation that is under the judgment of God? Absolutely! God will continue to keep His Word!
  - In America today, thousands of so-called Christians are abandoning the faith.
  - Matthew 24:12-14 – prepare yourself to stand firm! The Bible teaches the eternal security of the believer; it also teaches the perseverance of the saints: “He who stands firm to the end will be saved.”

### **Romans 9:30-33**

- Jesus Christ is a stumbling stone for those who are seeking to earn a right standing with God by good works.
- He is a stepping stone for those who will place their faith in Him alone for salvation.
  - Titus 3:4-8 – those who have trusted in God must be careful to devote themselves to doing what is good.
  - Ephesians 2:8-10 – we were created in Christ Jesus to do good works which God has prepared for us to do.
  - Galatians 6:10; 1 Peter 2:12 – it is our good works before all men that will give credibility to our sharing of the Gospel.