

Can God be Trusted? (Romans 9:1 - 18)

Begin your time in prayer, asking the Holy Spirit to lead you in truth and teach you through God's Word. As you complete each devotional, ask God that you would not be just a hearer of the Word but a doer also. (James 1:22) Be in continual prayer for those around you who do not yet love Jesus.

Monday

Read Romans 9:1 - 18 in ESV and NIV

1. What main points from yesterday's sermon impacted you the most?
2. How will what you heard yesterday change the way you live this week?
3. Write down key words or phrases from the passage of scripture for the week.
4. Note any questions you may have about the text.
5. What is the main idea that Paul is trying to communicate in this passage?

Tuesday

Read Romans 9:1 - 18 in ESV and NIV

Romans 9 comes after Romans 8 for this utterly crucial reason: It shows that the word of God's covenant with Israel has not failed, because it is grounded in God's sovereign, electing mercy. -John Piper

1. When you read Paul say that he wishes "that I myself were accursed and cut off from Christ," what crosses your mind?
2. According to this passage we are not sons and daughters of God by birthright but by covenant (referring to God making a relationship with his people through Abraham). Why is that important and comforting for the follower of Jesus?
3. When you think about the doctrine of election ("God planned before the foundation of the world to save us through the death and resurrection of Christ." -John Piper), how does this doctrine that is rooted in grace bring you comfort?

Wednesday

Read Romans 9:1 - 18 in ESV and NIV

Doctrine of Election: Those who freely come to God are those whom God has freely chosen. -Tim Keller

1. According to Romans 9:1 - 18 God elected you because of nothing that you possessed prior to your salvation, but by grace alone. How is that encouraging to you and for the people you know who aren't following Jesus?
2. Verse 11 says God's choice to bless Jacob and not Esau was made prior to their birth, "before the twins were born." Is this a difficult passage to accept? Why or why not? It goes on to say that the choice was made not based on what God knew about the boys "before the twins...had done anything good or bad." What is comforting about this verse, and what is difficult about this verse?
3. List three ways knowing God has chosen you can be a source of strength the rest of the week?

REV DAILY DEVOTIONAL

Thursday

Read Romans 9:1 - 18 in ESV and NIV

1. How does the emotional nature of Paul's language move and/or challenge you?
2. *To say mercy is "unfair" is to say that it is owed to all. But a mercy is undeserved, and thus is totally free.* (Tim Keller) Have you ever heard it said, or maybe you've had this thought yourself, "It is unfair for God to have mercy on some?" Reading the passage and Tim Keller's quote, how is this a contradictory statement?
3. How can you shift your thinking to viewing salvation based on mercy and His gift, not based upon our work and our right?
4. Make a list of reasons God's mercy is underserved, and then use that list to thank God for His great mercy in your life. Praise God for who He is.
5. Now make a list of your friends that don't know Jesus. Pray for them and pray that God would give you the boldness to share the gospel while you are around them. Pray for the boldness to invite them to church Sunday.

Friday

Read Romans 9:1 - 18 in ESV and NIV and review your answers from this week's questions.

1. What truths impacted you the most within this week's passage of Romans?
2. What aspect of God's character has this passage in Romans shown you more clearly?
3. What one step will you take in light of these truths?

Saturday

Read Romans 9:19 - 29 in ESV

Catch up on any days you may have missed throughout the week.

Corporate worship is designed to embed your story in the larger story of redemption, so you'll always place your hope in the grace of Jesus. -Paul Tripp

Pray for our service tomorrow, that God would rescue us all from the delusion that we can make it on our own. Pray that our hearts would be flooded by the overwhelming power of God's presence, and that God would speak through the preaching of this Word, setting the captives free and strengthening our faith. Pray that God would open someone's eyes while the gospel is being preached, that they would come from death to life in Jesus.

Sunday

Meditate on this passage in preparation for today's sermon.

Even as he chose us in him before the foundation of the world, that we should be holy and blameless before him. In love he predestined us for adoption as sons through Jesus Christ, according to the purpose of his will. (Ephesians 1:4-5)

