

A D-GROUP CURRICULUM

LIVE BY FAITH

FILLED WITH POWER + HOPE

ROMANS CHAPTERS 9-11

TABLE OF CONTENTS

HOW TO USE THIS GUIDE 4

INTRODUCTION TO ROMANS..... 5

RECOMMENDED RESOURCES34

LIVE BY FAITH SERIES SCHEDULE

WEEK OF	READ	SERMON DATE	SCRIPTURE	PAGE
2/17/25	..... WEEK 21	..... 2/23/25	..... ROMANS 9:1-8	..... 6
2/24/25	..... WEEK 22	..... 3/2/25	..... ROMANS 9:6-28	..... 11
3/3/25	..... WEEK 23	..... 3/9/25	..... ROMANS 9:30-10:13	..... 16
3/10/25	..... WEEK 24	..... 3/16/25	..... ROMANS 10:14-21	..... 21
3/17/25	..... WEEK 25	..... 3/23/25	..... ROMANS 11:1-36	..... 26



HOW TO USE THIS GUIDE

PURPOSE

The book of Romans is a cornerstone of Christian theology, offering profound insights into faith, salvation, and righteous living. This study guide aims to help you “grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ” (2 Peter 3:18) through an in-depth exploration of Paul’s letter to the Romans. As you engage with this guide, you’ll be equipped to live out your faith more authentically and to share the transformative power of the gospel in your daily life.

STRUCTURE

This guide is designed for a 5-week study, with each week focusing on a specific passage from Romans. Each week’s study includes:

- 1. Introduction:** Provides context and key themes for the week’s passage.
- 2. Scripture:** The full text of the week’s passage from the ESV translation.
- 3. Daily Personal Study:** Five days of reflection questions to deepen your understanding.
- 4. Daily Prayer:** A focused prayer related to the week’s scripture passage.
- 5. Group Discussion Questions:** Divided into three sections:
 - Know: Reflects on personal experiences related to the passage.
 - Grow: Dives deeper into the text, often incorporating related Scripture.
 - Show: Encourages practical application of the passage’s teachings.

HOW TO USE THIS GUIDE

1. Personal Study

- Read the introduction and Scripture passage at the beginning of each week.
- Engage with the Daily Personal Study questions throughout the week, spending time in prayer and reflection.
- Use the provided space to journal your thoughts, questions, and insights.

2. Group Discussion

- Come prepared to share your reflections from your personal study.
- Engage openly and honestly with the Know, Grow, and Show questions.
- Be ready to both share your own insights and learn from others in your group.

3. Application

- Pay special attention to the “Show” questions each week, which challenge you to apply the Scripture to your daily life.
- Look for ways to live out the truths you’re learning in your family, workplace, and community.

4. Continuous Growth

- As you progress through the study, notice how Paul builds his argument throughout Romans.
- Reflect on how each week's passage contributes to the overall theme of "living by faith."

Remember, the goal of this study is not just to gain knowledge, but to be transformed by God's Word. As you engage with Romans, pray for the Holy Spirit to illuminate the text and guide you in applying its truths to your life.

"For I am not ashamed of the gospel, for it is the power of God for salvation to everyone who believes, to the Jew first and also to the Greek. For in it the righteousness of God is revealed from faith for faith, as it is written, 'The righteous shall live by faith.'" — Romans 1:16–17

INTRODUCTION TO ROMANS 9–11

Having celebrated the unshakeable love of God and our security in Christ in Romans 8, Paul now turns to wrestle with one of the most challenging questions facing the early church: If God's promises are trustworthy, why have so many of His chosen people Israel rejected their Messiah? In Romans 9–11, Paul provides a masterful exploration of God's sovereignty in salvation while upholding both human responsibility and divine faithfulness. These chapters form the theological heart of how we understand God's ongoing purposes for both Israel and the Gentiles.

Romans 9 plunges us into the depths of divine election, using powerful examples from Israel's history to demonstrate God's right to show mercy to whom He chooses. For those who struggle with questions about fairness and free will, Paul's teaching reminds us that salvation ultimately flows from God's mercy, not human effort or merit. Yet as Romans 10 reveals, this truth about God's sovereignty doesn't negate human responsibility — rather, it establishes the framework for understanding why gospel proclamation is essential. Through a beautiful chain of reasoning, Paul shows how faith comes through hearing the message about Christ, calling us to be bearers of this good news.

Romans 11 brings these threads together by revealing God's mysterious plan to use Israel's temporary hardening to bring salvation to the Gentiles, ultimately leading to mercy for all. This section reaches its pinnacle in one of Scripture's most magnificent doxologies, reminding us that when we cannot fully grasp God's methods, we can still trust His character and wisdom. Throughout these chapters, we'll wrestle with vital questions: How do God's sovereignty and

human responsibility work together? What is our role in sharing the gospel? How should we understand God's ongoing purposes for Israel?

Whether you're grappling with doubts about God's goodness, struggling to share your faith, or seeking to understand how all of history fits into God's plan, these chapters offer profound encouragement. They remind us that God's ways are higher than our ways, His promises never fail, and His mercy extends far beyond what we could imagine. As we study together, we'll discover how living by faith means trusting God's wisdom even when we can't fully comprehend His ways, while joining Him in His mission to bring the good news to all peoples.

WEEK 21: ROMANS 9:1–8

INTRODUCTION

Having concluded the triumphant declarations of Romans 8 about our security in Christ's love, Paul now makes a dramatic shift in tone as he begins Romans 9. With deep anguish, he addresses one of the most perplexing questions facing the early church: why have so many of God's chosen people rejected their Messiah? For Paul's original Roman audience, which included both Jewish and Gentile believers, this question carried immense practical and theological weight. Jewish Christians struggled with the pain of seeing their families reject Christ, while Gentile believers needed to understand their place in God's plan of redemption. Paul's expression of profound grief over Israel's unbelief, coupled with his willingness to be "accursed and cut off from Christ" for their sake, challenges us today to examine our own hearts for the lost. Just as the Roman church had to wrestle with questions about God's faithfulness to His promises and what it truly means to be His people, we too must grapple with these issues in our increasingly diverse and skeptical world. This passage invites us to consider whether we share Paul's evangelistic burden and understand the true nature of being "children of the promise." As we study these verses together, we'll discover how living by faith includes having our hearts broken by what breaks God's heart, while trusting in His sovereign plan of redemption that extends to all peoples.

ROMANS 9:1–8 (ESV)

¹ I am speaking the truth in Christ—I am not lying; my conscience bears me witness in the Holy Spirit—² that I have great sorrow and unceasing anguish in my heart. ³ For I could wish that I myself were accursed and cut off from Christ for the sake of my brothers, my kinsmen according to the flesh. ⁴ They are Israelites, and to them belong the adoption, the glory, the covenants, the giving of the law, the worship, and the promises. ⁵ To them belong the patriarchs, and from their race, according to the flesh, is the Christ, who is God over all, blessed forever. Amen. ⁶ But it is not as though the word of God has failed. For not all who are descended from Israel belong to Israel, ⁷ and not all are children of Abraham because they are his offspring, but "Through Isaac shall your offspring be named."⁸ This means that it is not the children of the flesh who are the children of God, but the children of the promise are counted as offspring.

DAILY PERSONAL STUDY: ROMANS 9:1–8

Day One

Read Romans 9:1–3 carefully. Note how Paul begins this new section by expressing his deep anguish over Israel's unbelief. Compare this passion for the lost with his earlier declaration of being "not ashamed of the gospel" in Romans 1:16. How does Paul's grief demonstrate what it truly means to live

by faith? Consider journaling about people in your life for whom you feel a similar spiritual burden.

Day Two

Focus on Paul's threefold affirmation of truth in verses 1–2 ("I am speaking the truth," "my conscience bears witness," "in the Holy Spirit"). How does this connect to his earlier teaching about the Spirit's work in Romans 8:26–27? Reflect on how the Holy Spirit confirms truth in your own conscience and prayer life. Compare this with John 16:13 regarding the Spirit's role in guiding us into truth.

Day Three

Study verses 4–5's list of Israel's privileges. How does this passage build on Paul's discussion of the law and God's promises in Romans 3:1–2 and Romans 4? Consider how these blessings demonstrate both God's faithfulness and the tragedy of unbelief. Compare this with Moses' recounting of Israel's privileges in Deuteronomy 7:6–11.

Day Four

Examine verses 6–7's distinction between physical and spiritual Israel. How does this relate to Paul's earlier arguments about true faith in Romans 4:9–12? Consider what it means that "not all who are descended from Israel belong to Israel." How does this truth challenge common assumptions about what makes someone part of God's family?

Day Five

Reflect on verse 8's contrast between "children of the flesh" and "children of the promise." Connect this to Paul's teaching about life in the Spirit versus life in the flesh from Romans 8:1–17. How does this distinction deepen your understanding of what it means to live by faith? Consider how this truth might shape your witness to others this week.

DAILY PRAYER FOR THIS WEEK

Father, give me a heart like Paul that breaks for those who don't know You. Help me understand the depth of Your promises and the wonder of being a child of

promise through faith in Christ. Fill me with Your Spirit's power to live and share this truth boldly. May my life demonstrate what it means to truly live by faith. In Jesus' name, Amen.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

KNOW

In Romans 9:1–8, Paul expresses profound grief over his fellow Jews who haven't accepted Christ as Messiah. Before we dive deeper into Paul's anguish and evangelistic heart, let's reflect on our own experiences with caring deeply about others' spiritual condition and sharing our faith.

- Who shared the gospel with you when you repented and believed in Jesus? Tell us about the beginning of your faith journey.
- What's the most passionate you've ever felt about sharing something good with others (could be a movie, restaurant, experience, etc.)? How does that compare to our passion for sharing Christ?

GROW

Paul's words here represent one of scripture's most powerful expressions of evangelistic burden. His willingness to be "accursed and cut off from Christ" for the sake of his people's salvation echoes Moses' intercessory plea for Israel and ultimately points to Christ's sacrificial love. As we examine these verses together, let's explore how Paul's passionate concern for the lost challenges our own hearts for evangelism.

- Why are we more comfortable rejoicing in the love God has shown us through Jesus (Rom. 8:31–39) but uncomfortable with the thought of sharing that love with everyone who needs it (Rom. 9:1–8)?
- Charles Spurgeon said "If sinners be damned, at least let them leap to Hell over our dead bodies. And if they perish, let them perish with our arms wrapped about their knees, imploring them to stay. If Hell must be filled, let it be filled in the teeth of our exertions, and let not one go unwarned and unprayed for." Have you thought about our call to show and share the gospel in such dire terms?
- Looking at verses 1–2, Paul emphasizes his sincerity three ways: "I am speaking the truth," "my conscience bears witness," and "in the Holy Spirit." Why such emphasis? Consider John Stott's observation: "True evangelism comes from a heart broken by the world's need" (The Message of Romans).
- Examine verses 4–5. List the privileges Paul enumerates for Israel. How does understanding these privileges deepen our appreciation of both God's faithfulness and the tragedy of unbelief?

- How does Paul redefine what it means to be “Israel” in verses 6–8, and how does this connect to his earlier arguments about faith in Romans 4 regarding Abraham? In light of this, how should the distinction between “children of the flesh” and “children of the promise” shape our understanding of evangelism and church community, as highlighted by Tim Keller’s statement: “What makes you a Christian is not your physical birth but your spiritual birth”?

SHOW

As Spurgeon challenged us, “If sinners be damned, at least let them leap to Hell over our dead bodies.” This powerful imagery calls us to move beyond mere theological understanding to active, sacrificial love for the lost. Let’s consider how we can practically demonstrate this kind of Christ-like compassion in our daily lives.

- Is there someone in your life who needs to repent and believe the gospel? Pray for those people by name, and that your group would be emboldened by the Spirit and given opportunities to share Jesus.
- How might your approach to evangelism need to change in light of Paul’s example of deep compassion and willingness to sacrifice for others’ salvation?

WEEK 22: ROMANS 9:6–29

INTRODUCTION

In Romans 9:6–29, Paul addresses one of the most challenging questions facing both the early church and believers today: How do we understand God's sovereignty in salvation? Having just celebrated the unstoppable nature of God's love in Romans 8, Paul now turns to wrestle with why some of his fellow Jews have rejected the Messiah. This passage, particularly relevant to the Jewish believers in Rome who struggled with God's inclusion of Gentiles in His salvation plan, reveals that God's promises haven't failed—rather, they're being fulfilled in unexpected ways. Paul uses powerful examples from Israel's history, including Jacob and Esau, Moses, and Pharaoh, to demonstrate that God has always exercised His sovereign right to show mercy to whom He chooses. For modern readers, these truths about God's sovereignty can be both challenging and comforting. We might struggle, like Paul's original audience, with questions about fairness and human responsibility. Yet Paul's ultimate focus isn't on defending God's right to choose, but on marveling at His mercy in choosing to save anyone at all. As we study this passage together, we'll discover that understanding God's sovereignty doesn't diminish our responsibility to believe and obey, but rather gives us profound confidence that His promises never fail and His mercy never ends.

ROMANS 9:6–29 (ESV)

⁶ But it is not as though the word of God has failed. For not all who are descended from Israel belong to Israel, ⁷ and not all are children of Abraham because they are his offspring, but “Through Isaac shall your offspring be named.” ⁸ This means that it is not the children of the flesh who are the children of God, but the children of the promise are counted as offspring. ⁹ For this is what the promise said: “About this time next year I will return, and Sarah shall have a son.” ¹⁰ And not only so, but also when Rebekah had conceived children by one man, our forefather Isaac, ¹¹ though they were not yet born and had done nothing either good or bad—in order that God's purpose of election might continue, not because of works but because of him who calls—¹² she was told, “The older will serve the younger.” ¹³ As it is written, “Jacob I loved, but Esau I hated.” ¹⁴ What shall we say then? Is there injustice on God's part? By no means! ¹⁵ For he says to Moses, “I will have mercy on whom I have mercy, and I will have compassion on whom I have compassion.” ¹⁶ So then it depends not on human will or exertion, but on God, who has mercy. ¹⁷ For the Scripture says to Pharaoh, “For this very purpose I have raised you up, that I might show my power in you, and that my name might be proclaimed in all the earth.” ¹⁸ So then he has mercy on whomever he wills, and he hardens whomever he wills. ¹⁹ You will say to me then, “Why does he still find fault? For who can resist his will?” ²⁰ But who are you, O man, to answer back to God? Will what is molded say to its molder, “Why have you made me like this?” ²¹ Has the potter no right over the clay, to make out of the same lump one vessel

for honorable use and another for dishonorable use? ²² What if God, desiring to show his wrath and to make known his power, has endured with much patience vessels of wrath prepared for destruction, ²³ in order to make known the riches of his glory for vessels of mercy, which he has prepared beforehand for glory—²⁴ even us whom he has called, not from the Jews only but also from the Gentiles? ²⁵ As indeed he says in Hosea, “Those who were not my people I will call ‘my people,’ and her who was not beloved I will call ‘beloved.’” ²⁶ “And in the very place where it was said to them, ‘You are not my people,’ there they will be called ‘sons of the living God.’” ²⁷ And Isaiah cries out concerning Israel: “Though the number of the sons of Israel be as the sand of the sea, only a remnant of them will be saved, ²⁸ for the Lord will carry out his sentence upon the earth fully and without delay.” ²⁹ And as Isaiah predicted, “If the Lord of hosts had not left us offspring, we would have been like Sodom and become like Gomorrah.”

DAILY PERSONAL STUDY: ROMANS 9:6–29

Day One

Read Romans 9:6–9 carefully. Paul begins by addressing a crucial question about God’s faithfulness to His promises to Israel. How does he define true Israel? Compare this with his earlier arguments about true faith in Romans 4:13–17 regarding Abraham’s spiritual children. Consider journaling about how this understanding of God’s promises challenges or encourages your own faith journey.

Day Two

Focus on Romans 9:10–13 regarding Jacob and Esau. Paul uses their story to demonstrate God’s sovereign choice before they were born. How does this connect to the theme of “living by faith” we’ve seen throughout Romans? Compare this with Malachi 1:2–3 and Genesis 25:21–23. What does this reveal about God’s purposes in election?

Day Three

Study Romans 9:14–18 carefully. Paul anticipates objections about God’s justice and uses Moses and Pharaoh as examples. How does this section build on his earlier teachings about God’s righteousness in Romans 3:21–26? Reflect on how God’s mercy, rather than human effort, has been the consistent theme throughout Romans.

Day Four

Examine the potter and clay metaphor in Romans 9:19–23. How does this image help explain the relationship between divine sovereignty and human responsibility?

Consider how this relates to Paul's teaching about our union with Christ in Romans 6:1-14. What does this metaphor reveal about both God's authority and His patience?

Day Five

Reflect on Romans 9:24–28's quotations from Hosea and Isaiah about God's calling of both Jews and Gentiles. How does this connect to Paul's earlier statement about the gospel being "the power of God for salvation to everyone who believes, to the Jew first and also to the Greek" (Romans 1:16)? Consider how these Old Testament prophecies confirm God's plan to show mercy to all peoples.

DAILY PRAYER FOR THIS WEEK

Father, as I study Your Word this week, help me grasp both the mystery and beauty of Your mercy. Thank You that my salvation rests not on my own will or effort, but on Your compassionate choice to show mercy. Give me humility to accept what I cannot fully understand, and wisdom to trust Your perfect purposes. Help me rejoice in being a vessel of Your mercy and empower me to share that mercy with others. May I live with confident faith, knowing that Your promises never fail. In Jesus' name, Amen.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

In Romans 9:6–29, Paul addresses a profound question about God's faithfulness to His promises, particularly regarding Israel's role in His plan of salvation. This passage challenges us to wrestle with God's sovereignty in salvation while highlighting His merciful character and perfect wisdom in accomplishing His purposes.

KNOW

Before we dive into the theological depths of this passage, let's reflect on our own experiences with God's sovereignty and mercy. These personal stories can help us better relate to the challenging truths Paul presents about God's right to show mercy to whom He chooses.

- Share about a time when you struggled to understand or trust God's plan in your life. How did that experience affect your relationship with Him?
- Think back to a time when you received unexpected mercy or kindness. How did that experience help you better understand God's character and His mercy toward us?

GROW

Paul's primary concern in this passage isn't to present an abstract theological treatise on predestination, but rather to address Jewish believers struggling with

God's inclusion of Gentiles in His salvation plan. As the sermon notes highlight, "His main point here to the Jew is, God has always had the right to be merciful to who He wants to be merciful to...so if He wants to include the Gentiles in His plans of salvation, why does that bother you?"

- In this chapter, how does Paul defend the accusation that God is unjust and what do you learn from Paul's defense about God and His character? List some character traits of God that you see in this passage.
- Read Romans 9:6–16. Paul introduces the concept that "not all who are descended from Israel belong to Israel" and addresses whether God is unjust. How does his response about God's mercy challenge our human understanding of fairness? Consider Tim Keller's observation: "The issue isn't why God doesn't save everyone; the issue is why He saves anyone." (Romans 8–16 For You, p.57)
- Looking at verses 17–18 regarding Pharaoh and verses 22–24 about vessels of wrath and mercy, what do we learn about God's character and purposes? Consider John Piper's insight: "God's ultimate purpose is to make known the riches of His glory by showing mercy to vessels prepared for mercy." (The Justification of God, p.182)
- Examine verses 19–21's potter/clay metaphor. How does this image help us understand the relationship between divine sovereignty and human responsibility? Compare with Isaiah 45:9–12.
- Why does God choose us even though we don't deserve it and could never earn it? Consider v. 22–26, the following scriptures, and any other scripture that comes to mind. Eph 1:3–6, 11–12; Eph 2:4–10
- Looking at verses 25–29, how do Paul's quotes from Hosea and Isaiah demonstrate God's faithfulness to His promises while also showing His sovereign right to show mercy to both Jews and Gentiles?

SHOW

Having wrestled with these profound truths about God's sovereignty and mercy, we must move beyond intellectual understanding to practical application. As Isaiah 55 reminds us, God's ways are higher than our ways, and His thoughts higher than our thoughts. This should lead us to both humility and confident trust in His perfect plan.

- How can we respond when we don't understand what God is doing in our life or we feel like He has failed us? (Hint...think about what you know of God's character, the fact that He can never act in a way that is inconsistent with His character, as well as any scripture that comes to mind including Ecclesiastes 8:16–17, Rom. 8:28, Jeremiah 29:11–13.)
- What steps can you take to cultivate a faith that trusts in God's sovereignty even when you don't fully understand His ways? Make a note of one step you want to focus on to grow your faith in this area.

WEEK 23: ROMANS 9:30–10:13

INTRODUCTION

Building on our study of God's sovereign choice in Romans 9:1–29, Paul now addresses a profound paradox in Romans 9:30–10:13 that would have deeply challenged his original Jewish audience — how could the Gentiles who weren't pursuing righteousness find it, while Israel who zealously pursued it missed it? This passage strikes at the heart of how we receive salvation, confronting both ancient and modern readers with the tension between human effort and divine grace. Just as the Jews struggled with their religious heritage and zeal becoming a stumbling block to true faith, we too can find ourselves relying on our religious activities, moral behavior, or spiritual knowledge rather than simply trusting in Christ's finished work. Paul's clear presentation of salvation through faith — confessing with our mouth and believing in our heart — provides both comfort and challenge. It reminds us that no amount of religious effort can save us, while also promising that anyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved. As we study these verses together, we'll discover how God's sovereignty in salvation, which we explored in the previous passage, beautifully aligns with His universal offer of grace to all who believe. This truth calls us to examine our own hearts for traces of self-righteousness while also compelling us to share this simple yet profound message of salvation with others.

ROMANS 9:30–10:13 (ESV)

³⁰ *What shall we say, then? That Gentiles who did not pursue righteousness have attained it, that is, a righteousness that is by faith;* ³¹ *but that Israel who pursued a law that would lead to righteousness did not succeed in reaching that law.* ³² *Why? Because they did not pursue it by faith, but as if it were based on works. They have stumbled over the stumbling stone,* ³³ *as it is written, "Behold, I am laying in Zion a stone of stumbling, and a rock of offense; and whoever believes in him will not be put to shame."*

¹ *O Brothers, my heart's desire and prayer to God for them is that they may be saved.* ² *For I bear them witness that they have a zeal for God, but not according to knowledge.* ³ *For, being ignorant of the righteousness of God, and seeking to establish their own, they did not submit to God's righteousness.* ⁴ *For Christ is the end of the law for righteousness to everyone who believes.* ⁵ *For Moses writes about the righteousness that is based on the law, that the person who does the commandments shall live by them.* ⁶ *But the righteousness based on faith says, "Do not say in your heart, 'Who will ascend into heaven?'" (that is, to bring Christ down)* ⁷ *"or 'Who will descend into the abyss?'" (that is, to bring Christ up from the dead).* ⁸ *But what does it say? "The word is near you, in your mouth and in your heart" (that is, the word of faith that we proclaim);* ⁹ *because, if you confess with your mouth that Jesus is Lord and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved.* ¹⁰ *For with the heart one believes*

*and is justified, and with the mouth one confesses and is saved.*¹¹ For the Scripture says, “Everyone who believes in him will not be put to shame.”¹² For there is no distinction between Jew and Greek; for the same Lord is Lord of all, bestowing his riches on all who call on him.¹³ For “everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved.”

DAILY PERSONAL STUDY: ROMANS 9:30–10:13 (WEEK 23)

Day One

Read Romans 9:30–33 carefully. Compare the contrasting paths to righteousness described here with Paul's earlier teachings about faith versus works in Romans 3:21–28 and 4:1–5. What does it mean that Israel “stumbled over the stumbling stone”? Consider how you might be tempted to pursue righteousness through your own efforts rather than through faith in Christ. Journal about areas where you may be “stumbling” over self-righteousness.

Day Two

Focus on Romans 10:1–4, particularly Paul's description of Israel's “zeal without knowledge.” Compare this with Paul's own testimony in Philippians 3:4–9 about his previous zeal for the law. How might religious enthusiasm actually become an obstacle to truly knowing Christ? Reflect on areas in your life where zeal might be overshadowing grace.

Day Three

Study Romans 10:5–8 and its connection to Deuteronomy 30:12–14. How does Paul reinterpret this Old Testament passage to show Christ's accessibility? Consider how this builds on his argument about faith versus works from Romans 3–4. What does it mean that the word is “near you, in your mouth and in your heart?” Compare this with Jesus' teaching about the kingdom's accessibility in Luke 17:20–21.

Day Four

Examine Romans 10:9–10's clear statement about salvation. Notice how Paul connects belief in the heart with confession with the mouth. How does this relate to his earlier teachings about justified faith producing fruit (Romans 6:1–4)? Consider writing out your own story of how head knowledge of Christ became heart transformation.

Day Five

Reflect on Romans 10:11–13's universal invitation to salvation. How does this connect to Paul's argument about God's impartiality in Romans 2:11 and the universal need for salvation in Romans 3:23? Consider the phrase "everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved." How does this both challenge and encourage you in sharing your faith?

DAILY PRAYER FOR THIS WEEK

Heavenly Father, thank You that salvation comes through faith in Christ alone, not through my own efforts or religious zeal. Help me to rest fully in Christ's righteousness rather than trying to establish my own. Give me wisdom to share this liberating truth with others who may be struggling to earn their way to You. May Your Spirit guide me to live by faith, not works, this week. In Jesus' name, Amen.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

KNOW

In Romans 9:30–10:13, Paul addresses a profound paradox: how Israel, who pursued righteousness through the law, missed it, while Gentiles who weren't even looking for it found true righteousness through faith. Before we dive deeper into these truths about salvation by faith alone, let's reflect on our own experiences that help us relate to this struggle between works and grace.

- Share about a time when you worked really hard to achieve something, only to discover there was actually an easier way. What did that experience teach you?
- Can you describe a moment when you realized you were trying to earn someone's approval instead of simply receiving their love? How does this relate to how we sometimes approach our relationship with God?

GROW

Paul's message here strikes at the heart of how we receive salvation — not through our own efforts but through faith in Christ's finished work. This was a radical shift for his Jewish audience who had built their lives around keeping the law, and it remains challenging for us today as we naturally drift toward self-righteousness. Let's examine how Paul builds his case for salvation by faith alone and what this means for our lives.

- Read Romans 9:30–33. Paul contrasts Israel's pursuit of righteousness through law with the Gentiles' receiving righteousness through faith. How does this compare to people's approaches to spirituality today? Consider Tim Keller's observation: "The gospel is not just the ABC's but the A to Z of

Christianity. It is not just the minimum required doctrine for entrance into the kingdom, but the way we make progress in the kingdom.” (The Centrality of the Gospel, 2000)

- Looking at Romans 10:1–4, what does Paul mean by “zeal without knowledge”? How might religious enthusiasm actually become an obstacle to truly knowing Christ? Compare this with Jesus’ words in Matthew 7:21–23.
- In Romans 10:3, Paul speaks of people trying to “establish their own righteousness.” What are some ways we might try to do this today? Consider J.I. Packer’s insight: “Your faith will not fail while God sustains it; you are not strong enough to fall away while God is resolved to hold you.” (Knowing God, p.137)
- Romans 10:4 states that “Christ is the end of the law for righteousness.” How does this relate to Jesus’ words in Matthew 5:17 about fulfilling the law? What does this mean practically for believers today?
- Examine Romans 10:9–10. What are the two elements required for salvation according to these verses? Why are both internal belief and external confession important? Consider Augustine’s words: “Faith is to believe what you do not see; the reward of this faith is to see what you believe.”
- Look at Romans 10:11–13. How does Paul emphasize the universal availability of salvation? How does this connect with the Great Commission in Matthew 28:19–20? Consider John Stott’s observation: “The gospel is not just a message to be believed, but a power to be experienced.” (The Message of Romans, p.282)

SHOW

Having explored the truth that salvation comes through faith in Christ alone, not through our own righteousness or religious zeal, we must now consider how this transforms our daily lives. Paul’s words remind us that this message isn’t just theological truth to be understood but good news to be lived and shared. Let’s consider how to apply these truths practically.

- Based on this passage, what specific areas of self-righteousness might the Holy Spirit be revealing in your life? What step can you take this week to more fully trust in Christ’s righteousness rather than your own?
- Who in your life needs to hear the simple truth that “everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved?” How can you share this message with them this week?

WEEK 24: ROMANS 10:14–21

INTRODUCTION

Having explored God's sovereign choice in salvation and the necessity of personal faith in Romans 9–10:13, Paul now addresses a crucial question that naturally arises: How can people believe in a Savior they've never heard about? In Romans 10:14–21, Paul presents a beautiful chain of reasoning that shows why the proclamation of the Gospel is essential for salvation. This passage would have challenged Paul's Jewish audience, who might have wondered why Gentiles were now being included in God's family when they hadn't followed the law for generations. Today, we might struggle with similar questions about God's sovereignty in salvation — if God chooses who will be saved, why do we need to evangelize? Paul's answer shows us that God's sovereignty doesn't negate our responsibility but rather empowers it. Just as a messenger bringing news of victory to ancient Israel had "beautiful feet," we too have the privilege of carrying the good news of Christ to others. This passage invites us to move beyond our excuses and fears about evangelism to embrace our role in God's plan of salvation. Whether we're new believers hesitant to share our faith or mature Christians who have grown comfortable in silence, Paul's words challenge us to see that the same God who sovereignly saves also chooses to work through ordinary people like us to spread His extraordinary message. As we study these verses together, we'll discover how God's sovereignty in salvation actually gives us more confidence, not less, in sharing the Gospel with others.

ROMANS 10:14–21 (ESV)

¹⁴ How then will they call on him in whom they have not believed? And how are they to believe in him of whom they have never heard? And how are they to hear without someone preaching? ¹⁵ And how are they to preach unless they are sent? As it is written, "How beautiful are the feet of those who preach the good news!" ¹⁶ But they have not all obeyed the gospel. For Isaiah says, "Lord, who has believed what he has heard from us?" ¹⁷ So faith comes from hearing, and hearing through the word of Christ. ¹⁸ But I ask, have they not heard? Indeed they have, for "Their voice has gone out to all the earth, and their words to the ends of the world." ¹⁹ But I ask, did Israel not understand? First Moses says, "I will make you jealous of those who are not a nation; with a foolish nation I will make you angry." ²⁰ Then Isaiah is so bold as to say, "I have been found by those who did not seek me; I have shown myself to those who did not ask for me." ²¹ But of Israel he says, "All day long I have held out my hands to a disobedient and contrary people."

DAILY PERSONAL STUDY: ROMANS 10:14–21

Day One

Read Romans 10:14–15 carefully, focusing on Paul's series of questions. How does this logical progression build on his previous teaching about salvation in Romans

10:5–13? Notice how Paul moves from the end (calling on the Lord) back to the beginning (being sent). Journal about your own journey of hearing and believing the Gospel. Who were the people God used to bring you this message? Consider writing a prayer of thanksgiving for them.

Day Two

Study Romans 10:15 and its quote from Isaiah 52:7. Study the original context of this passage (Isaiah 52) about messengers bringing good news of Israel's deliverance. How does Paul apply this to Gospel proclamation? Compare this with other passages about being God's messengers (2 Corinthians 5:20, Acts 1:8). Reflect on what makes the feet of Gospel messengers "beautiful" in God's sight.

Day Three

Focus on Romans 10:16–17 regarding the relationship between hearing and faith. How does this build on Paul's earlier teaching about faith in Romans 1:16–17? Consider his statement that "faith comes from hearing." What implications does this have for our understanding of evangelism? Journal about times you've seen this principle at work in your own life or others' lives.

Day Four

Examine Romans 10:18–19's use of Psalm 19:4 and Deuteronomy 32:21. How does Paul use these Old Testament references to show that Israel's unbelief wasn't due to lack of opportunity? Compare this with his argument about general revelation in Romans 1:18–20. What does this tell us about human responsibility in responding to God's truth?

Day Five

Meditate on Romans 10:20–21's contrast between God being found by those not seeking Him and His patient outreach to a disobedient people. How does this relate to the theme of God's sovereignty and human responsibility we've seen throughout Romans 9–11? Consider how this passage challenges both our excuses for not sharing the Gospel and our discouragement when people reject it. How might this transform your approach to evangelism this week?

DAILY PRAYER FOR THIS WEEK

Father, thank You for the people You sent to share the Gospel with me. Give me Your heart for those who haven't heard and Your courage to be a faithful messenger. Help me move beyond excuses and fear to share Your truth with others. May Your Spirit empower my witness and give me patience with those who seem resistant. Guide me to those You're preparing to hear Your good news. In Jesus' name, Amen.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

KNOW

In Romans 10:14–21, Paul addresses the vital connection between God's sovereignty in salvation and our responsibility to share the Gospel. This passage follows his deep theological exploration of election in Romans 9, showing that God's sovereign choice doesn't negate but rather empowers our call to evangelism. As we begin our discussion, let's reflect on our own experiences with hearing and sharing the good news.

- Think back to when you first heard the Gospel. Who shared it with you and what made their presentation memorable or impactful?
- When was the last time you had a spiritual conversation with someone who doesn't know Jesus? What emotions did you experience before, during, and after?

GROW

Paul presents a beautiful chain of reasoning that demonstrates why the proclamation of the Gospel is essential for salvation. His argument moves from the impossibility of believing without hearing, to the necessity of preachers being sent, to the beauty of those who bring good news. Let's explore how this passage challenges and encourages us in our call to share Christ.

- Read Romans 10:14–15. Paul presents a logical chain of events necessary for salvation. How does this passage demonstrate the partnership between God's sovereignty and human responsibility in evangelism? Consider J.I. Packer's insight: "Divine sovereignty and human responsibility are not enemies... they are friends, and they work together in the bringing of people to faith." (Evangelism and the Sovereignty of God, p.35)
- Looking at verses 16–17, what is the relationship between hearing and faith? How does Tim Keller's observation challenge popular misconceptions about evangelism: "You can't have strong faith without content. Faith is not a blind leap but a response to revealed truth."
- Paul quotes Isaiah 52:7 about "beautiful feet" bringing good news. How does this Old Testament reference about Israel's deliverance deepen our

understanding of what makes Gospel proclamation beautiful? Compare with Paul's words in 2 Corinthians 5:20 about being "ambassadors for Christ."

- In verses 18–20, Paul references both general revelation (Psalm 19:4) and special revelation (Isaiah 65:1). How do these two types of revelation work together in evangelism? Consider Charles Spurgeon's encouragement: "God is often found of those who sought Him not. He is kind to the unthankful and the evil." (Morning and Evening, January 15)
- Looking at verse 21, how does God's patient persistence with an obstinate people shape our understanding of evangelistic faithfulness? Compare this with Jesus' lament over Jerusalem in Matthew 23:37-39 and Peter's words in 2 Peter 3:9.

SHOW

Understanding that God uses ordinary people to share His extraordinary message, we're called to move beyond excuses and into action. The same Spirit who raised Christ from the dead empowers us to be His witnesses. Let's consider how we can practically apply these truths in our daily lives.

Paul teaches us three key aspects of being a faithful evangelist:

- o The heart: A burden for the lost and a desire to pray for their salvation.
 - o The theology: Understanding that faith in Christ is absolutely necessary for salvation.
 - o The practice: Actively proclaiming the gospel with boldness.
- Which of these three areas do you struggle with the most? Do you find it difficult to have a heart for lost people, to fully believe in the exclusive truth of the gospel, or to boldly share the good news with others?
 - How are you actively sharing the gospel with others?

WEEK 25: ROMANS 11:1–36

INTRODUCTION

In Romans 11, Paul confronts a critical question that naturally arises from his teaching about election and Israel's unbelief: Has God rejected His people, the Israelites? For Jewish Christians in Rome facing increasing persecution and for Gentile believers trying to understand their place in God's plan, this question touched deep concerns about God's faithfulness to His promises. The same questions resonate today as we wrestle with understanding God's mysterious ways in our own lives. In Romans 11:1–36, Paul provides a profound answer, using his own story, the metaphor of an olive tree, and ultimately the revelation of a divine mystery to show that God's ways are higher than our ways. He warns Gentile believers against pride while simultaneously assuring them of their secure place in God's family, and reveals how even Israel's temporary stumbling serves God's larger purpose of showing mercy to all. This chapter reaches its crescendo in one of Scripture's most beautiful doxologies, reminding us that when we cannot fully grasp God's methods, we can still trust His character and wisdom. As we study these verses together, we'll discover how God's faithfulness to Israel encourages our own faith, while His warnings against spiritual pride call us to deeper humility and worship.

ROMANS 11:1–36 (ESV)

¹ I ask, then, has God rejected his people? By no means! For I myself am an Israelite, a descendant of Abraham, a member of the tribe of Benjamin.

² God has not rejected his people whom he foreknew. Do you not know what the Scripture says of Elijah, how he appeals to God against Israel? ³ "Lord, they have killed your prophets, they have demolished your altars, and I alone am left, and they seek my life." ⁴ But what is God's reply to him? "I have kept for myself seven thousand men who have not bowed the knee to Baal." ⁵ So too at the present time there is a remnant, chosen by grace. ⁶ But if it is by grace, it is no longer on the basis of works; otherwise grace would no longer be grace. ⁷ What then? Israel failed to obtain what it was seeking. The elect obtained it, but the rest were hardened, ⁸ as it is written, "God gave them a spirit of stupor, eyes that would not see and ears that would not hear, down to this very day." ⁹ And David says, "Let their table become a snare and a trap, a stumbling block and a retribution for them; ¹⁰ let their eyes be darkened so that they cannot see, and bend their backs forever." ¹¹ So I ask, did they stumble in order that they might fall? By no means! Rather, through their trespass salvation has come to the Gentiles, so as to make Israel jealous.

¹² Now if their trespass means riches for the world, and if their failure means riches for the Gentiles, how much more will their full inclusion mean! ¹³ Now I am speaking to you Gentiles. Inasmuch then as I am an apostle to the Gentiles, I magnify my ministry ¹⁴ in order somehow to make my fellow Jews jealous,

and thus save some of them.¹⁵ For if their rejection means the reconciliation of the world, what will their acceptance mean but life from the dead?¹⁶ If the dough offered as firstfruits is holy, so is the whole lump, and if the root is holy, so are the branches.¹⁷ But if some of the branches were broken off, and you, although a wild olive shoot, were grafted in among the others and now share in the nourishing root of the olive tree,¹⁸ do not be arrogant toward the branches. If you are, remember it is not you who support the root, but the root that supports you.¹⁹ Then you will say, "Branches were broken off so that I might be grafted in."²⁰ That is true. They were broken off because of their unbelief, but you stand fast through faith. So do not become proud, but fear.²¹ For if God did not spare the natural branches, neither will he spare you.²² Note then the kindness and the severity of God: severity toward those who have fallen, but God's kindness to you, provided you continue in his kindness. Otherwise you too will be cut off.²³ And even they, if they do not continue in their unbelief, will be grafted in, for God has the power to graft them in again.²⁴ For if you were cut from what is by nature a wild olive tree, and grafted, contrary to nature, into a cultivated olive tree, how much more will these, the natural branches, be grafted back into their own olive tree.²⁵ Lest you be wise in your own sight, I do not want you to be unaware of this mystery, brothers: a partial hardening has come upon Israel, until the fullness of the Gentiles has come in.²⁶ And in this way all Israel will be saved, as it is written, "The Deliverer will come from Zion, he will banish ungodliness from Jacob;"²⁷ "and this will be my covenant with them when I take away their sins."²⁸ As regards the gospel, they are enemies for your sake. But as regards election, they are beloved for the sake of their forefathers.²⁹ For the gifts and the calling of God are irrevocable.³⁰ For just as you were at one time disobedient to God but now have received mercy because of their disobedience,³¹ so they too have now been disobedient in order that by the mercy shown to you they also may now receive mercy.³² For God has consigned all to disobedience, that he may have mercy on all.³³ Oh, the depth of the riches and wisdom and knowledge of God! How unsearchable are his judgments and how inscrutable his ways!³⁴ "For who has known the mind of the Lord, or who has been his counselor?"³⁵ "Or who has given a gift to him that he might be repaid?"³⁶ For from him and through him and to him are all things. To him be glory forever. Amen.

DAILY PERSONAL STUDY: ROMANS 11:1-36

Day One

Read Romans 11:1-6 carefully. Paul begins by asking "Has God rejected his people?" and answers with a strong "By no means!" Consider how Paul uses his own story as evidence of God's faithfulness. How does this personal testimony strengthen his argument? Compare this with other instances of God preserving a remnant in Scripture (like 1 Kings 19:18). Journal about how God's faithfulness to Israel encourages you in your own faith journey.

Day Two

Focus on Romans 11:7–16 regarding the “hardening” of Israel and God’s larger purpose. What does Paul mean by this hardening, and how does it serve God’s plan for both Jews and Gentiles? Consider how this connects to earlier themes in Romans about God’s sovereignty and mercy (Romans 9:14–18). How does this section challenge or deepen your understanding of God’s ways?

Day Three

Study the olive tree metaphor in Romans 11:17–24. Note the warning against Gentile pride and the reminder of dependence on the root. How does this metaphor illustrate both God’s justice and kindness? Compare this with Jesus’ teaching about branches and vines in John 15:1–8. What aspects of your spiritual life might reflect either pride or genuine dependence on Christ?

Day Four

Examine the “mystery” Paul reveals in Romans 11:25–32. What does he mean by “all Israel will be saved?” How does this section demonstrate God’s faithfulness to His promises while also accomplishing His purposes for the Gentiles? Consider how this relates to the theme of God’s sovereign plan we’ve seen throughout Romans (especially chapters 9–11).

Day Five

Reflect on Paul’s doxology in Romans 11:33–36. After wrestling with deep theological truths, Paul erupts in praise. How does this doxology connect to the series theme of “Living by Faith: Filled with Power and Hope?” Consider recording your own prayer of praise based on what you’ve learned about God’s character and ways through this chapter.

DAILY PRAYER FOR THIS WEEK

Lord God, Your ways are higher than our ways, and Your thoughts than our thoughts. Thank You for including us in Your magnificent plan of redemption. Guard us against pride, help us trust Your wisdom, and lead us to worship You for Your unfathomable riches in Christ. May we live with both humility and hope as we consider Your faithful love. In Jesus’ name, Amen.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

KNOW

In Romans 11, Paul addresses the crucial question of whether God has rejected His chosen people Israel. Before we dive deeper into this profound chapter, let's reflect on our own experiences with God's faithfulness and wisdom.

- Share about a time when you felt God hadn't forgotten about you, even though circumstances suggested otherwise. How did He remind you of His faithfulness?
- Can you recall a situation where you initially doubted someone's wisdom or plan, but later discovered they knew exactly what they were doing? What did that teach you about trusting others' wisdom?
- When have you experienced being "grafted in" to a new family, group, or community? What emotions and challenges did you face in that process?

GROW

Paul's theological argument in Romans 11 builds on deep truths about God's sovereignty, faithfulness, and mysterious plans for both Jews and Gentiles. As we examine these verses together, we'll see how God's ways are higher than our ways, and His purposes are more profound than we could imagine.

- Read Romans 11:1–6. Paul uses himself as evidence that God hasn't rejected Israel. How does God's preservation of a "remnant" throughout Israel's history demonstrate His faithfulness? Consider 1 Kings 19:18 and Charles Spurgeon's observation: "The salvation of Israel is the ultimate triumph of sovereign grace." (Sermon "The Restoration and Conversion of the Jews," 1864)
- Look at verses 7–10. What caused the "hardening" Paul describes? How does this relate to what we learned about election in Romans 9? Consider J.I. Packer's insight: "God's hardening is a judicial act, abandoning sinners to their self-induced blindness." (Knowing God, 1973)
- Examine verses 11–15. How does Paul describe God's purpose in Israel's stumbling? What does this reveal about God's ability to work even through apparent failure?
- In verses 17–24, Paul uses the olive tree metaphor. What warnings does he give to Gentile believers? How might these warnings apply to us today when we're tempted toward spiritual pride?
- Read verses 25–32. What does Paul mean by "all Israel will be saved?" How does this mysterious plan demonstrate God's faithfulness to His promises? Consider John Stott's observation: "God's mercy to all is the deepest ground for His glory from all." (The Message of Romans, 1994)

- Look at the doxology in verses 33–36. How does Paul's eruption into praise flow from the theological truths he's just explained? What attributes of God does he particularly celebrate?

SHOW

Having explored these profound truths about God's faithfulness and wisdom, we must now consider how to apply them to our daily lives. Just as Paul moved from theology to doxology, our understanding should lead to both worship and action.

- Based on Paul's warnings about spiritual pride in verses 17–24, what attitudes or assumptions in your own spiritual life might need examination this week?
- How could you demonstrate more trust in God's wisdom this week, especially in areas where His plans don't match your expectations?
- Who in your life needs to hear about God's faithfulness right now? How can you share these truths from Romans 11 in a way that encourages them?

RECOMMENDED RESOURCES:

- *Romans 8–16 For You* by Timothy Keller — <https://a.co/d/dyzadVr>
- *Knowing the Bible: Romans* by Jared Wilson — <https://www.thegospelcoalition.org/course/knowning-bible-romans>
- *Exalting Jesus in Romans* by Tony Merida
- *Romans: A Concise Guide to the Greatest Letter Ever Written* by Andrew David Naselli — <https://www.amazon.com/Romans-Concise-Greatest-Letter-Written/dp/1433580349>

to them who are unde
may be stopped, and "a
ty before God.
y the deeds of the law
d in his sight: for "

*If the Spirit of him who raised
Jesus from the dead dwells in you,
he who raised Christ Jesus from
the dead will also give life to your
mortal bodies through his Spirit
who dwells in you.*



ely "by his grace, "thn
n Christ Jesus :
llset forth "to be a propiti
s blood, to declare his rig
sion of "sins that are pe
of God ;
at this time his right

