

ROMANS

PART 12: IS GOD FAIR WITH ISRAEL?

Romans Chapter 9

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Some Christian Jews in Rome apparently felt that they were automatically saved (justified) because they were the recipients and keepers of the Mosaic Law for centuries. It's like having a "get out of jail free" card. In this chapter Paul explains why a Jew is not automatically saved by keeping the Law but by trusting God in faith.

A. CENTRAL QUESTION

How do those who are born into the nation of Israel become true members of God's people?

B. KEY WORDS

1. Elect (Gk. *eklektos*): God's choice and knowing of people to be saved. It is an act of God before creation in which he chooses some people to be saved, not on account of any foreseen merit in them, but only because of his sovereign good pleasure.¹
2. Mercy (Gk. *eleos*): helping someone because of pity.
3. Remnant (Gk. *hypoleimma*): a small number of God's people who remained faithful to him especially during the exile and the return.
4. Sovereign (Gk. *despotēs*): the one who has supreme power; master; ruler over a household.

C. OUTLINE

1. Paul's grief for Israel (9:1-5)
2. God's election to salvation (9:6-29)
 - a) The principle (9:6)
 - b) Illustrations of the principle (9:7-18)
 - c) God's right to elect defended (9:19-29)
3. God's salvation by faith (9:30-33)²

D. QUESTIONS FOR DISCUSSION

1. What main principle, concerning the nation of Israel, is found in verse 6?
2. Why did Paul explain this principle?
3. In Deuteronomy 28:1-14 God promised to bless Israel if they kept the Mosaic Law. Now, in Roman 9 Paul explains that Jews are not saved by keeping the Law. Explain why God is not being inconsistent or unfair.
4. How would you explain to an unsaved person that God is not being unfair by choosing only some people to be saved (the elect)?
5. What examples in Chapter 9 help to explain God's sovereignty?
6. If God elects those who are his, why should Christians try to evangelize the world?
7. Are people saved because of God's sovereignty or by their free will?

E. CONCLUSIONS

1. Descendants of Abraham (Jews) are not _____ because they were recipients and keepers of the Mosaic Law (Rom. 9:6-8).
2. Only those descendants of Abraham (and Gentiles) who have put their _____ are Abraham's true descendants (Rom. 9:8, 31-32).
3. God is always fair because he is the _____ and has a right to do with his creation as he wills (Rom. 9:19-20)

¹ (Grudem and Grudem, *Christian Beliefs: Twenty Basics Every Christian Should Know* 79).

² Gary Tuck, *The Arguments of the Books of the New Testament with Introductions and Outlines*, 1993, 2002.