

Romans 9:1-18

God and His People

- ◆ I am speaking the truth; I belong to Christ and I do not lie. My conscience, ruled by the Holy Spirit, also assures me that I am not lying when I say how great is my sorrow, how endless the pain in my heart for my people, my own flesh and blood! For their sake I could wish that I myself were under God's curse and separated from Christ. They are God's people; he made them his children and revealed his glory to them; he made his covenants with them and gave them the Law; they have the true worship; they have received God's promises; they are descended from the famous Hebrew ancestors; and Christ, as a human being, belongs to their race. May God, who rules over all, be praised forever! Amen. I am not saying that the promise of God has failed; for not all the people of Israel are the people of God. Nor are all of Abraham's descendants the children of God. God said to Abraham, "It is through Isaac that you will have the descendants I promised you." This means that the children born in the usual way are not the children of God; instead, the children born as a result of God's promise are regarded as the true descendants. For God's promise was made in these words: "At the right time I will come back, and Sarah will have a son." And this is not all. For Rebecca's two sons had the same father, our ancestor Isaac. But in order that the choice of one son might be completely the result of God's own purpose, God said to her, "The older will serve the younger." He said this before they were born, before they had done anything either good or bad; so God's choice was based on his call, and not on anything they had done. As the scripture says, "I loved Jacob, but I hated Esau." Shall we say, then, that God is unjust? Not at all. For he said to Moses, "I will have mercy on anyone I wish; I will take pity on anyone I wish." So then, everything depends, not on what we humans want or do, but only on God's mercy. For the scripture says to the king of Egypt, "I made you king in order to use you to show my power and to spread my fame over the whole world." So then, God has mercy on anyone he wishes, and he makes stubborn anyone he wishes.
- ◆ Paul has pity on the chosen people of God who are the Israelites, they are the chosen nation yet some of them are under God's curse and separated from Christ. God made them his children, revealed his glory to them, made covenants with them, gave them the law, they have true worship, they received God's promises, they are descendants of the famous ancestors and Christ as a human belongs to their race. In spite of all this, not all of them belong to God. Today as Christians basking in God's glory, do we really belong to God?
- ◆ Paul then writes about events of the past from Abraham, to Jacob and Esau, to the kings of Egypt, and others. We see from the given events that nothing was random, they were not the result of humans deed, but they were God's will. God destined Jacob and Esau before they were born, God placed and made stubborn the kings of Egypt so that his glory may be seen all over the world. Nothing is random or according to human will, but all things are according to God's will. When I reflect upon my life journey thus far I see the hand of God directing me through some good and not so good ways. God is the ruler and planner of all things that happen and it is all for his glory, we all belong to him. Even the life journey of Paul is another case that shows that God had destined him for preaching his message. Another example is Moses life. May God who rules over all be praised forever.