**GOD’S SOVEREIGNTY IN WORLD MISSION**

Romans 9:1-33

Key Verse 9:16

*“It does not, therefore, depend on human desire or effort, but on God’s mercy.”*

1. Read verses 1-5. What is the reason for Paul's great anguish of heart? What are the spiritual blessings and responsibilities which God gave Israel (4, 5)? Which privileges had they enjoyed and which had they refused?
2. Read verses 6-9. What problem is raised by Israel's failure? How does Paul answer and in his answer, who are the true children of Abraham? What is the significance of God’s promises in his redemptive history?
3. Read verses 10-18. How did God deal with Rebekah’s twin sons (10-13)? What is God’s basis for election and predestination in world salvation (12, 14-16, 18)? What does this teach us about God and his ways of working?
4. Read verses 19-23. What can we learn from the parable of the Potter about the Creator's purpose in each act of creation? Why is it important to accept God’s sovereignty in history and in our own lives? What are the two classes of mankind (22-23; see also 17)? What does God reveal about himself in his dealings with each?
5. Read verses 24-29. How has he made his redemptive work inclusive—even of Gentiles, who were supposed to be objects of his wrath (24-26)? How has he revealed his grace and mercy to Israel, too (27, 29)? What does verse 28 teach about God’s redemptive work?
6. Read verses 30-33. Why did the Gentiles obtain righteousness while the Jews failed to obtain it? Who is the stumbling stone? How does the same "stone" save some and crush others?