



Sermon Discussion Questions: Romans 9-10

Romans 9:1-5

1. Share a time when you felt sorrow and anguish over someone's salvation. What were the circumstances? Has there been any change in their heart and/or yours?
2. Paul felt sorrow and anguish over his people who thus far have rejected Christ. He's prayed for them and witnessed to them time & again, yet to no avail. Can you relate? How so? How might you grow to be more like Paul in your heart for the lost?
3. According to these verses, what advantages are there to being a Jew? Which do you find most special or meaningful?
4. Paul highlights the privileges and promises of Israel to illustrate how tragic it is that most of Israel did not believe in Christ. We can often feel the same way about family or friends who have been raised in the church but who currently reject the gospel. Spend some time praying for those in your life who do not yet know Christ.

Romans 9:6-13

1. Share a time you saw God come through for you.
2. Romans 8 declares that when God calls someone, He always brings them all the way home. But Romans 9 asks an important question: If God promised that Israel would be His people, yet the majority did not believe in Christ, does that mean God's promise, power, or mercy is failing? How does Paul respond?
3. Who, according to Paul, are the "children of Abraham" (see Romans 4:16-17 for help)? Are all Jewish people included? What about the Gentiles? What about you?
4. What character traits would you use to describe Jacob? Is there anything about Jacob that would explain God's choosing him over Esau?
5. What does verse 11 teach you about why God chose to save Jacob and you? How does that shape your understanding of your own salvation and security?
6. What questions might you have about the doctrine of election? Spend some time praying for one another as you bring these questions to God and ask for God to help you.

Romans 9:14-18

1. Share a time when you witnessed injustice. How did this make you feel?
2. How would you answer Paul's question, "Is there injustice on God's part?" What was Paul's answer and what is his proof?
3. Why is it good news that salvation does not depend on human will or exertion but on God who has mercy?
4. What does it mean for God to harden someone's heart? What does it mean for someone to harden their own heart? How are the two related? (See Exodus 7:1-5 and 8:15-19.)
5. How might you plead for God's mercy to be displayed today? Spend some time as a group praying for these things.

Romans 9:19-23

1. Share a time you were in awe of God's power or will being accomplished.
2. How would you personally answer Paul's question in verse 19? Now read Paul's response and notice that he doesn't try to answer our potential objections but simply points emphatically to God's sovereignty. How do you feel about his response? Why?
3. How does God's sovereignty shape the way you think about Him and your salvation? What comfort could this doctrine be to those who believe?
4. Read Psalm 139:13-18. How do these verses reveal God's heart for you and your life circumstances? How do they complement this section in Romans 9?
5. Spend some time reflecting on God's work in your life. Take some time to give thanks to Him as a group.

Romans 9:24-29

1. Share a time when you treasured being called "the beloved" or "sons [and daughters] of the living God." What were the circumstances? How did that make you feel?
2. Take some time to read Hosea 2:1-13 and then briefly discuss Israel's sin and what they deserve. Now, read verses 14-23. How does this reveal the heart of God? How might knowing God's heart help us better understand Romans 9?
3. Paul next quotes the prophet Isaiah. How might these verses help us better understand the nature of God and His plan of salvation?
4. According to Romans 9:14-29, how would you say God's mercy and judgment work together?
5. Where do you long for God's judgment to be displayed? Where do you long for God's mercy to be displayed? Pray as a group for these things.

Romans 9:30-10:4

1. Why do people stumble over Jesus? What in the past (or even in the present) has caused you to stumble?
2. One particular stumbling block for the Jews was pursuing the law for salvation. Why is it often more difficult for “religious people” to truly grasp the gospel?
3. How might you be tempted to live out of a works-based rather than grace-based relationship with God and others?
4. What does it mean for us that Christ is the end of the law? How can this reality change the way you live (look ahead to Romans 12:1-2 for help)?
5. Consider the persecution Paul experienced at the hand of his Jewish brothers and then reflect on Paul’s heart for his kinsmen in 10:1. How would you describe his heart (look back at 9:1-3)? How can you cultivate a heart like Paul’s towards others?

Romans 10:5-13

1. Share your salvation story—when you confessed with your mouth and believed in your heart that Jesus died and rose again.
2. Romans 10:11 says, “Everyone who believes in him will not be put to shame.” What comfort can you draw from this promise in times of distress, suffering, or doubt (see Romans 5:1-5 for more help)?
3. What does Paul mean (and what does he not mean) when he says that there is no longer any distinction between Jew and Gentile? How does verse 12 help us interpret verse 13? What are the global implications of these verses?
4. How do the promises in Romans 10 to “everyone” line up with Romans 9:16, which says “it depends not on human will or exertion, but on God who has mercy”? In other words, what is the relationship between God’s sovereignty and our responsibility in salvation?
5. How might God’s sovereignty not be a hindrance but a help to our prayer and evangelism to the lost? Spend some time praying for the lost.

Romans 10:14-21

1. Share a time you shared your faith with someone. What were the circumstances? How did you feel? What were the results?
2. In light of what we learned in Romans 9, how would Paul answer the objection, “If God is sovereign over our salvation, why should we share our faith?”
3. How would you say you’re currently doing in obeying God’s call to share the gospel with others? Is there anyone in your life that the Holy Spirit has been prompting you to share the gospel with but you’ve been putting it off? Take some time to pray for those people, asking the Lord for humility, boldness, winsomeness, opportunity, and the simple discipline to obey God’s call.
4. God calls us to share the gospel both in our city and our world. Now take some time to pray for our overseas gospel partners, most of whom are serving in places where there are few believers. Consider coming to our next First Thursday Prayer and/or picking up the monthly prayer card at the coffee bar in the lobby.