

Pt 34 Romans 9:24-33, Even Us

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If you remember last time, we looked at verses 14-23 and asked the question “**Is God Unfair?**” Of course, the answer was **absolutely not**. We surmised from God’s Word that God is fair no matter what the outcome for man is. Because man deserves eternal punishment in hell because of our sins. The thing not fair is that God would save anyone. - Although we looked at verses 22 and 23 last time in our studies, we need to include them in our message this morning so that it is kept in proper context. Let’s begin reading in verse 22:

Romans 9:22-33

22 *What if God, willing to shew his wrath, and to make his power known, endured with much longsuffering the vessels of wrath fitted to destruction:*
23 *And that he might make known the riches of his glory on the vessels of mercy, which he had afore prepared unto glory,*
24 *Even us, whom he hath called, not of the Jews only, but also of the Gentiles?*
25 *As he saith also in Osee, I will call them my people, which were not my people; and her beloved, which was not beloved.*
26 *And it shall come to pass, that in the place where it was said unto them, Ye are not my people; there shall they be called the children of the living God.*
27 *Esaias also crieth concerning Israel, Though the number of the children of Israel be as the sand of the sea, a remnant shall be saved:*
28 *For he will finish the work, and cut it short in righteousness: because a short work will the Lord make upon the earth.*
29 *And as Esaias said before, Except the Lord of Sabaoth had left us a seed, we had been as Sodoma, and been made like unto Gomorrha.*
30 *What shall we say then? That the Gentiles, which followed not after righteousness, have attained to righteousness, even the righteousness which is of faith.*
31 *But Israel, which followed after the law of righteousness, hath not attained to the law of righteousness.*
32 *Wherefore? Because they sought it not by faith, but as it were by the works of the law. For they stumbled at that stumblingstone;*
33 *As it is written, Behold, I lay in Sion a stumblingstone and rock of offence: and whosoever believeth on him shall not be ashamed.*

I don’t want to spend a lot of time on verses 22 and 23 but as we discussed last time, God will receive glory in ALL things. Whether it is showing his holy wrath against sin or showing his mercy on the sinner. We see examples of this in the previous verses in this chapter where God says he will have mercy on whom he will *have mercy*, and whom he will he hardeneth. He used Pharaoh as an example. And he uses the analogy of the Potter and the clay of how the Potter has full control over the clay.

One problem with man is that we think everything starts with us and ends with us. We think the Bible was written for us – and while that is partially true, the fact is, the Bible was written for God, to glorify Him.

Think of it this way:

1. Your salvation is completely of God, and it wasn’t to keep you from going to hell, it was to glorify God’s mercy and grace in saving you from destruction.
2. You placing your faith in Christ is not about you and you are not able to even have faith unless God gives it to you. It was God’s effectual calling that brought you to saving faith.
3. Living a holy and righteous life is not possible within yourself, it is only possible through God’s enablement through Christ.

Are you catching on yet? It is all about God and not about us.

Once we realize that everything God does is to glorify himself, the better we will understand it is His prerogative to do whatever He wants to do. If he shews his wrath to make his power known on vessels fitted to destruction or if he makes known the riches of his glory by bestowing mercy on vessels prepared unto glory, that is His right to do and who are we to question Him?

24 Even us, whom he hath called, not of the Jews only, but also of the Gentiles?

I titled the message this morning, “**Even Us**.” That is who the text is talking about, us whom he hath called – in other words, those who are saved.

Only the called are saved. Jesus said in **John 14:6** ... *I am the way, the truth, and the life: no man cometh unto the Father, but by me.*

And in **John 6:44** *No man can come to me, except the Father which hath sent me draw him: and I will raise him up at the last day.*

Notice that Paul includes both Jews and Gentiles in the “Even Us.” It was difficult for the Jews to believe that they themselves could be anything except vessels of mercy and they would never think they would be vessels fitted for wrath. It was also difficult for the Jews to accept the fact that God engrafted the Gentiles into his plan. That is probably why Paul mentions the Gentiles 26-times in the Book of Romans alone. That is more times than he mentions them in all the rest of his letters combined.

The fact is, God’s promises were not to the natural off-spring of Abraham, but they were made to the true seed of Abraham through faith in Christ. This would include Jew and Gentile alike.

Don’t forget what we studied in Chapter 4 where it says: **Romans 4:16** *Therefore it is of faith, that it might be by grace; to the end the promise might be sure to all the seed; not to that only which is of the law, but to that also which is of the faith of Abraham; who is the father of us all.* While we as Gentiles are not Jews by birth, we can claim the faith of Abraham which makes him the father of us as well.

25 *As he saith also in Osee, I will call them my people, which were not my people; and her beloved, which was not beloved.* 26 *And it shall come to pass, that in the place where it was said unto them, Ye are not my people; there shall they be called the children of the living God.*

Here we have Paul again quoting from the Old Testament to get his point across. That name Osee in our New Testament is the Greek rendering of the Hebrew name Hoshea or Hosea. The quote comes from **Hosea 1:9-10** *Then said God, Call his name Loammi: for ye are not my people, and I will not be your God. 10 Yet the number of the children of Israel shall be as the sand of the sea, which cannot be measured nor numbered; and it shall come to pass, that in the place where it was said unto them, Ye are not my people, there it shall be said unto them, Ye are the sons of the living God.*

And it is also found in **Hosea 2:23** *And I will sow her unto me in the earth; and I will have mercy upon her that had not obtained mercy; and I will say to them which were not my people, Thou art my people; and they shall say, Thou art my God.*

These O.T. passages are proof to the Jews that it was prophesied by God that his plan all along was to save the Gentiles and that the Jews would reject Him.

If you remember the story of Hosea and how his wife, Gomer, had been unfaithful and become a harlot and she abandoned him and their children. But after a long time, Hosea sought her out and she had been sold into slavery, but he bought her and took her back in and loved her. This, of course, was a comparison of God and His bride, Israel. Paul is making the point that God is fair, and he is loving and has a plan for the Jews despite the fact that they are in unbelief.

Right now, the Jews are still in unbelief. They are in Spiritual darkness; they have been blinded. But, one day, just as Hosea sought out Gomer and restored her, the Lord will do the same with Israel.

27 Esaias also crieth concerning Israel, Though the number of the children of Israel be as the sand of the sea, a remnant shall be saved: 28 For he will finish the work, and cut *it* short in righteousness: because a short work will the Lord make upon the earth.

Paul continues by supplying even more O.T. Scripture to back up what he is saying. This time it is from the Prophet Isaiah. The text is from **Isaiah 10:22-23** For though thy people Israel be as the sand of the sea, yet a remnant of them shall return: the consumption decreed shall overflow with righteousness. 23 For the Lord GOD of hosts shall make a consumption, even determined, in the midst of all the land.

Isaiah also prophesied that even though Israel is as many as the sands of the sea, only a remnant will be saved. A remnant is a small part of something. If you are going to pick out carpet for a house and you don't know what would look best, you can go to the carpet store and get remnants (a small piece of carpet) and bring home and see how it looks on your floor. You don't get the whole carpet but only a small piece of it.

29 And as Esaias said before, Except the Lord of Sabaoth had left us a seed, we had been as Sodom, and been made like unto Gomorrha.

Then Paul quotes from yet another part of Isaiah. This time from **Isaiah 1:9** Except the LORD of hosts had left unto us a very small remnant, we should have been as Sodom, and we should have been like unto Gomorrah.

Again, the emphasis is placed on a remnant. This time it even says a “small remnant.” He mentions Sodom and Gomorrah and we all know what happened to those two cities – they were completely destroyed. If God chose to destroy everyone as he did Sodom and Gomorrah it would be well within His right to do so.

That phrase “Lord of Sabaoth” means “Lord of hosts.” The word Sabaoth means “armies, or a military host.” In other words, the Lord of ALL. This shows God's sovereignty, and it is not to be questioned.

These last 4-verses really go along with the first 4-verses of Chapter, 10; however, let's look at them this morning as part of this message.

30 What shall we say then? That the Gentiles, which followed not after righteousness, have attained to righteousness, even the righteousness which is of faith. 31 But Israel, which followed after the law of righteousness, hath not attained to the law of righteousness.

Then, the question that all Jews would naturally have – So, you mean the Gentiles who are a bunch of ungodly, wicked, people have attained God's righteousness? They didn't have to live any certain way or follow any certain law and all they had to do was believe in the Lord Jesus to attain salvation?

Yet the Jews have spent their entire history trying to achieve God's righteousness. They lived by the strict laws of Moses and went through all the rituals and routines all in the name of God, yet they are rejected, and the Gentiles engrafted? This would of course be puzzling for the Jews.

But Paul is using this example as absolute proof that Salvation is entirely of God's doing. The Gentiles didn't earn salvation and weren't looking for it either, yet God divinely chose to bestow it upon them. They believed simply by faith in Jesus.

That is the wonderful thing about the Gospel. It is simple. All we do is believe in the finished work of the Lord Jesus Christ on the Cross – his death burial, and resurrection. So many people try to complicate the Gospel causing much confusion.

The Jews were relying upon their obedience to the Law and their family lineage to attain salvation. The truth is salvation has NEVER been based on the Law, Works, or Bloodline – it has ALWAYS been based on Faith. That's why Paul said in **Romans 4:13** For the promise, that he should be the heir of the world, was not to Abraham, or to his seed, through the law, but through the righteousness of faith.

The Jews knew the Books of Moses and know very well that it says this about Abraham in **Genesis 15:6** And he believed in the LORD; and he counted it to him for righteousness.

The Jews were so blinded by their works of self-righteousness that they worked their way into darkness. When Jesus came along, he was a stumbling block to them. That is what Paul emphasizes in the last two verses:

32 Wherefore? Because *they sought it* not by faith, but as it were by the works of the law. For they stumbled at that stumblingstone; 33 As it is written, Behold, I lay in Sion a stumblingstone and rock of offence: and whosoever believeth on him shall not be ashamed.

Here again Paul quotes from the Book of Isaiah.

First in **Isaiah 8:14** And he shall be for a sanctuary; but for a stone of stumbling and for a rock of offence to both the houses of Israel, for a gin and for a snare to the inhabitants of Jerusalem.

Secondly in **Isaiah 28:16** Therefore thus saith the Lord GOD, Behold, I lay in Zion for a foundation a stone, a tried stone, a precious corner stone, a sure foundation: he that believeth shall not make haste.

Jesus was a stumbling stone to the Jews. Because of their unbelief and their works-based righteousness, they could not allow themselves to believe in Him for salvation and that became their downfall.

Listen to what Paul wrote to the Church at Corinth: **1 Corinthians 1:22-24** For the Jews require a sign, and the Greeks seek after wisdom: 23 But we preach Christ crucified, unto the Jews a stumblingblock, and unto the Greeks foolishness; 24 But unto them which are called, both Jews and Greeks, Christ the power of God, and the wisdom of God.

Christ is still a stumblingstone and rock of offense to the Jews. He's a rock of offense to the lost world as well. The world does not want to believe in Him, and he is rejected.

Jesus himself said this to the Chief Priests and the Elders when they were questioning him on his authority to teach in the Temple: **Matthew 21:42** Jesus saith unto them, Did ye never read in the scriptures, The stone which the builders rejected, the same is become the head of the corner: this is the Lord's doing, and it is marvellous in our eyes?

Jesus was also quoting from the Old Testament, **Psalms 118:22-23** The stone which the builders refused is become the head stone of the corner. 23 This is the LORD'S doing; it is marvellous in our eyes.

Jesus was and still is a stumblingstone to a lost and dying world. Righteousness and salvation can only come through faith in Christ and Christ alone. I am thankful that I can say “**even us**” can be saved.