

Hidden Hills Sovereign Grace Baptist Church
Wednesday Sermon

Date: March 17, 2021

Text: Romans 9:1-9

Scripture Reading: Romans 9:1-9

Subject: Children of God, the spiritual seed

In verses 31 through 39 of this eighth chapter, we considered these six questions:

1. What shall we then say to these things?
2. If God be for us, who can be against us?
3. He that spared not his own Son, but delivered him up for us all, how shall he not with him also freely give us all things?
4. Who shall lay any thing to the charge of God's elect?
5. Who is he that condemneth?
6. Who shall separate us from the love of Christ?

Now, we come to chapter 9 and plan to read and address verses 1 through 15 for this evening.

Romans 9:1 (KJV) *I say the truth in Christ, I lie not, my conscience also bearing me witness in the Holy Ghost,*

I say the truth in Christ, I lie not, -- None of us would think that Paul is lying about what he is going to say. Why is that? Paul was in Christ, a converted person, one born again, and renewed in the spirit of his mind, what he was about to speak is truth, and no lie. He appeals to the true God, the searcher of hearts, that what he is now writing is truth, and nothing but truth, and has no falsehood in it.

My conscience also bearing me witness in the Holy Ghost, --

Paul calls his conscience to witness to the truth of his words. Brethren, our conscience is as a thousand witnesses. What exactly is conscience? Conscience is the Internal or self-knowledge, or judgment of right and wrong; or the faculty, power or principle within us, which decides on the lawfulness or unlawfulness of our own actions and affections, and instantly approves or condemns them. Is the conscience of men and women a safe guide to whether or not a thing is right or wrong? Definitely not – except that the conscience is taught by the word of God. The consciences of the rank and file of persons in the world would judge a thing to be right when it is entirely wrong according to God’s word – or would judge a thing to be wrong – when it is clearly right according to the word of God. Every man has a conscience, and unless it has been violated so many times that it is past feeling or has become seared as with a red hot iron, that conscience will accuse or excuse. Conscience can and should be taught – especially by the truth of the word of God. It needs to be taught to stand against the oppositions of science, falsely so called. Paul’s conscience had been enlightened, cleansed, and set apart by the Spirit of God and therefore would bear a faithful testimony to his words and actions.

Romans 9:2 (KJV) That I have great heaviness and continual sorrow in my heart.

This apparently was not a thing that had come on Paul suddenly, but he had had many occasions to think about it – the thoughts of it brought great heaviness and continual sorrow to him. He was truly grieved. What was the cause of this heaviness and sorrow in his heart?

Romans 9:3 (KJV) For I could wish that myself were accursed from Christ for my brethren, my kinsmen according to the flesh:

Notice this carefully. Paul said “for I COULD wish that myself were accursed from Christ.” He did not say that he **did** wish himself to be accursed from Christ, but that he **could**. Why was this? Paul had a great affection for the people of Israel who were his brethren of his nation. He had great and continuous concerns for them.

In Paul’s concern for his kinsmen, we notice from the first verse of the 10th chapter that he prayed for them.

Romans 10:1 (KJV) *Brethren, my heart's desire and prayer to God for Israel is, that they might be saved.*

Romans 9:4 (KJV) *Who are Israelites; to whom pertaineth the adoption, and the glory, and the covenants, and the giving of the law, and the service of God, and the promises;*

Paul was an Israelite and his kinsmen according to the flesh were also Israelites. To this nation, Israel, God had given great and wonderful advantages – advantages and promises which none of the gentiles knew except for the few of them who had become Israelites. These blessings pertained to them:

- the **adoption** (the redemption and resurrection of the body):
- the **glory** (the symbols of God’s presence with them – the Ark of the Covenant, the pillar of cloud and of fire; the Angel which went before them):
- the **covenants** (the covenant of circumcision; the old covenant and promise of the new):
- the **giving of the law** (which was done after the LORD brought them out of Egypt and brought them to Mount Sinai – the Ten Commandments written on tables of stone):
- the **service of God** (the tabernacle, the Levitical priesthood, the sacrifices for sins; the sabbaths, the feasts of God; the temple):

- and **the promises** (both temporal and spiritual, especially such as related to the Messiah, and which now had their accomplishment.).

This passage will help us to understand more of this as we consider what all of us once were in relation to Israel and the blessings given them of the LORD.

Ephesians 2:11-13 (KJV) *Wherefore remember, that ye being in time past Gentiles in the flesh, who are called Uncircumcision by that which is called the Circumcision in the flesh made by hands; **12** That at that time ye were without Christ, being aliens from the commonwealth of Israel, and strangers from the covenants of promise, having no hope, and without God in the world: **13** But now in Christ Jesus ye who sometimes were far off are made nigh by the blood of Christ.*

Romans 9:5 (KJV) ***Whose are the fathers, and of whom as concerning the flesh Christ came, who is over all, God blessed for ever. Amen.***

Whose are the fathers, -- Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob; their descent from these fathers was a privilege, though they valued themselves too highly about that descent. For example, the Pharisees said: "We have Abraham to our Father" as the words of John the Baptist tells us:

Matthew 3:9 (KJV) *And think not to say within yourselves, **We have Abraham to our father**: for I say unto you, that God is able of these stones to raise up children unto Abraham.*

And of whom as concerning the flesh Christ came, -- Matthew traces the birth of Jesus from Abraham, through Isaac and Jacob,

Judah and from David – therefore, Jesus was an Israelite who, according to the flesh, was of the tribe of Judah.

Hebrews 7:13-14 (KJV) *For he of whom these things are spoken pertaineth to another tribe, of which no man gave attendance at the altar. **14** For it is evident that our Lord sprang out of **Juda**; of which tribe Moses spake nothing concerning priesthood.*

Who is over all, God blessed for ever. Amen. – Is Jesus not over all? Hath not God given him a name that is above every name?

Philippians 2:5-11 (KJV) *Let this mind be in you, which was also in Christ Jesus: **6** Who, being in the form of God, thought it not robbery to be equal with God: **7** But made himself of no reputation, and took upon him the form of a servant, and was made in the likeness of men: **8** And being found in fashion as a man, he humbled himself, and became obedient unto death, even the death of the cross. **9** Wherefore God also hath highly exalted him, and given him a name which is above every name: **10** That at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, of things in heaven, and things in earth, and things under the earth; **11** And that every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.*

Romans 9:6 (KJV) *Not as though the word of God hath taken none effect. For they are not all Israel, which are of Israel:*

Not as though the word of God hath taken none effect. – Could you and I ever think that God’s word fails to accomplish its purpose? God forbid!

Isaiah 55:10-11 (KJV) *For as the rain cometh down, and the snow from heaven, and returneth not thither, but watereth the earth, and maketh it bring forth and bud, that it may give seed to the sower, and bread to the eater: **11** So shall my word be that goeth forth out of my mouth: it shall not return unto me void, but it shall accomplish that which I please, and it shall prosper in the thing whereto I sent it.*

God's word of promise to Abraham, that he would be a God to him, and to his seed after him.

Genesis 12:3 (KJV) *And I will bless them that bless thee, and curse him that curseth thee: **and in thee shall all families of the earth be blessed.***

Genesis 17:7-8 (KJV) *And I will establish my covenant between me and thee and thy seed after thee in their generations for an everlasting covenant, to be a God unto thee, and to thy seed after thee. **8 And I will give unto thee, and to thy seed after thee, the land wherein thou art a stranger, all the land of Canaan, for an everlasting possession; and I will be their God.***

Genesis 22:17-18 (KJV) *That in blessing I will bless thee, and in multiplying I will multiply thy seed as the stars of the heaven, and as the sand which is upon the sea shore; and thy seed shall possess the gate of his enemies; **18** And in thy seed shall all the nations of the earth be blessed; because thou hast obeyed my voice.*

That by Abraham, God should bless all the families of the earth most certainly included you and I as gentiles. This blessed promise was made only to Abraham and his spiritual seed; and therefore though his carnal seed believed not, and for their unbelief should be

temporarily set aside and cut off, this did not make the word of God and the promises of God of none effect.

For they are not all Israel, which are of Israel: -- What does the apostle mean by this statement? As he continues in the next verses, he will show the truth of this statement. There was and is Israel after the flesh. Then, there is a remnant of Israel; that is those of Israel who believed God.

Romans 11:1-11 (KJV) I say then, Hath God cast away his people? God forbid. For I also am an Israelite, of the seed of Abraham, *of the tribe of Benjamin.* **2** God hath not cast away his people which he foreknew. Wot ye not what the scripture saith of Elias? how he maketh intercession to God against Israel, saying, **3** Lord, they have killed thy prophets, and digged down thine altars; and I am left alone, and they seek my life. **4** But what saith the answer of God unto him? I have reserved to myself seven thousand men, who have not bowed the knee to *the image of Baal.* **5 *Even so then at this present time also there is a remnant according to the election of grace.*** **6** And if by grace, then *is it* no more of works: otherwise grace is no more grace. But if *it be* of works, then is it no more grace: otherwise work is no more work. **7 *What then? Israel hath not obtained that which he seeketh for; but the election hath obtained it, and the rest were blinded*** **8 (According as it is written, God hath given them the spirit of slumber, eyes that they should not see, and ears that they should not hear;)** **unto this day.** **9** And David saith, Let their table be made a snare, and a trap, and a stumblingblock, and a recompence unto them: **10** Let their eyes be darkened, that they may not see, and bow down their back alway. **11** I say then, Have

they stumbled that they should fall? God forbid: but *rather* through their fall salvation *is come* unto the Gentiles, for to provoke them to jealousy.

Romans 9:7 (KJV) *Neither, because they are the seed of Abraham, are they all children: but, In Isaac shall thy seed be called.*

Neither, because they are the seed of Abraham, are they all children: -- Abraham had several sons. You will recall that Sarah gave to Abraham her maid Hagar to wife and Hagar bore Abraham a son whose name was Ishmael. Afterwards when Ishmael was 13 years of age and Abraham was an hundred years old, Sarah bare to him Abraham's son, Isaac. We will come back to Isaac in just a moment, but let us consider that Abraham had more seed. After Sarah's death, Abraham married Keturah who bare Abraham six more sons.

Genesis 25:1-6 (KJV) *Then again Abraham took a wife, and her name was Keturah. 2 And she bare him **Zimran, and **Jokshan**, and **Medan**, and **Midian**, and **Ishbak**, and **Shuah**. 3 And Jokshan begat Sheba, and Dedan. And the sons of Dedan were Asshurim, and Letushim, and Leummim. 4 And the sons of Midian; Ephah, and Epher, and Hanoch, and Abida, and Eldaah. All these were the children of Keturah. 5 And Abraham gave all that he had unto Isaac. 6 But unto the sons of the concubines, which Abraham had, Abraham gave gifts, and sent them away from Isaac his son, while he yet lived, eastward, unto the east country.***

As we can see, God gave Abraham one son by Hagar, the Egyptian, whose name was Ishmael; a son by Sarah, whose name was Isaac; and six sons by Keturah, whose names are Zimran, Jokshan, Medan, Midian, Ishbak and Shuah – eight sons in all. But, we are told ***In Isaac shall thy seed be called.*** –

Genesis 21:9-12 (KJV) *And Sarah saw the son of Hagar the Egyptian, which she had born unto Abraham, mocking. **10** Wherefore she said unto Abraham, Cast out this bondwoman and her son: for the son of this bondwoman shall not be heir with my son, even with Isaac. **11** And the thing was very grievous in Abraham's sight because of his son. **12** And God said unto Abraham, Let it not be grievous in thy sight because of the lad, and because of thy bondwoman; in all that Sarah hath said unto thee, hearken unto her voice; for in Isaac shall thy seed be called.*

Romans 9:8 (KJV) ***That is, They which are the children of the flesh, these are not the children of God: but the children of the promise are counted for the seed.***

That is, They which are the children of the flesh, these are not the children of God: -- Consider this: Issac was the only one of these eight sons born to Abraham who was a child of promise. Why is that? Because when it came time for Isaac to be born, his mother, Sarah, was past the age when women bear children – it had ceased to be with her after the manner of women. But, God promised Abraham a son whom Sarah would bear to him – a son from His own loins. This was not possible according to the flesh, but was done by the miraculous power of God to enable Sarah to conceive seed, bare a son, and give him suck. In the very same way, human beings born according to the flesh are just that - flesh. They are born dead in trespasses and in sins and have need of a miraculous birth from above to become a child of God.

But the children of the promise are counted for the seed. – Isaac was a child of promise, therefore the spiritual line comes through Abraham and Isaac – and the seed is Christ. Those in Christ are the spiritual seed.

Romans 9:9 (KJV) *For this is the word of promise, At this time will I come, and Sara shall have a son.*

Let us read that word of promise from the LORD.

Genesis 18:9-15 (KJV) *And they said unto him, Where is Sarah thy wife? And he said, Behold, in the tent. 10 And he said, **I will certainly return unto thee according to the time of life; and, lo, Sarah thy wife shall have a son.** And Sarah heard it in the tent door, which was behind him. 11 Now Abraham and Sarah were old and well stricken in age; and it ceased to be with Sarah after the manner of women. 12 Therefore Sarah laughed within herself, saying, After I am waxed old shall I have pleasure, my lord being old also? 13 And the LORD said unto Abraham, Wherefore did Sarah laugh, saying, Shall I of a surety bear a child, which am old? 14 **Is any thing too hard for the LORD? At the time appointed I will return unto thee, according to the time of life, and Sarah shall have a son.** 15 Then Sarah denied, saying, I laughed not; for she was afraid. And he said, Nay; but thou didst laugh.*

Brothers and sisters, Isaac was a son of promise. It was not humanly possible that Abraham and Sarah could have a child because it had ceased to be with Sarah after the manner of women.

Galatians 4:28-29 (KJV) *Now we, brethren, as Isaac was, are the children of promise. 29 But as then he that was born after the flesh persecuted him that was born after the Spirit, even so it is now.*

Brothers and sisters, these nine verses of Romans 9 serve to introduce us to what shall be before us in the succeeding verses of this outstanding chapter of God's word.

We noticed Paul's great heaviness and continual sorrow in his heart for the Israelites who were his kinsmen according to the flesh. Moreover, we noticed that as a consequence of Paul's heaviness and sorrow of heart, that he prayed for Israel. We have seen that there are not all Israel who are of Israel – because the election of Israel has obtained that which Israel sought for and the rest were blinded. Therefore, there was in Israel an elect spiritual remnant according to grace. This elect remnant are the spiritual seed of Israel. These were the children of promise as the further parts of our lesson illustrate in the birth of Isaac, the promised son of Abraham.

Romans 9:10 (KJV) *And not only this; but when Rebecca also had conceived by one, even by our father Isaac;*

Romans 9:11 (KJV) *(For the children being not yet born, neither having done any good or evil, that the purpose of God according to election might stand, not of works, but of him that calleth;)*

Romans 9:12 (KJV) *It was said unto her, The elder shall serve the younger.*

Romans 9:13 (KJV) *As it is written, Jacob have I loved, but Esau have I hated.*

Romans 9:14 (KJV) *What shall we say then? Is there unrighteousness with God? God forbid.*

Romans 9:15 (KJV) *For he saith to Moses, I will have mercy on*

whom I will have mercy, and I will have compassion on whom I will have compassion.