

Introduction

Paul's letter to the Romans is a bold statement of the gospel showing that both Jews and Gentiles stand guilty and condemned and in need of salvation. But salvation cannot be earned by obedience to the Law; all who are saved are saved the same way—God justifies sinners by grace alone through faith alone in Christ alone.

In chapters 1–11, Paul presents the theological doctrines of salvation and justification. Chapters 12–16 explain the practical outworking of salvation and justification for individual believers and for the church.

For the purposes of this year's study on God's plan of redemption, this lesson focuses primarily on chapters 9–11, in which Paul clarifies the role of Israel, God's chosen nation.

This year we are memorizing Ephesians 2. This week's verse is Ephesians 2:15:
“...by abolishing in His flesh the enmity, which is the Law of commandments contained in ordinances,

Day One

Skim Romans 9–11; God's Plan for Israel

1. From last week's lesson or lecture on Romans 1–8, what did you find particularly encouraging or convicting? How are you applying it to your life?

2. Skim Romans 9–11. In your own words, identify the question that Paul was trying to answer.
 - a. Why is that question and its answer important for the church as well as for Israel?

3. From Romans 8:28–39, how does Paul's presentation about God's trustworthiness establish a foundation for his explanation of God's sovereignty of salvation in Romans 9–11?

4. In Romans 9:1–5, how did Paul establish his regard for Israel to the believers in Rome? (Use a dictionary or Bible resources to better understand the meaning of “accursed.”
 - a. How can Paul's concern for Israel be an example for you as you consider those who don't know Christ?

Day Two

Read Romans 9; Election: God's Sovereign Choice

1. In Romans 9:4–5, what did Paul list as belonging to Israel?
 - a. How could this list raise the question of whether God's promises had failed Israel?

2. In verses 6–21, what was Paul's answer to this question? How did he support his argument?

3. In verses 14–21, how did Paul refute the argument that God is unfair because of the doctrine of election?
4. In Romans 9:22–29, what did Paul make clear about God's plan for Israel? What does that teach about God's character?
5. According to Romans 9:30–33, why did Israel fail to attain righteousness?
6. In Mark 7:1–13, how did Israel seek to establish its own righteousness?
 - a. Find another New Testament reference that shows Israel's reliance on works.
 - b. Do you see this same pattern in false religions today, or even in your own life? Explain your answer.

Day Three

*Read Romans 10; **Justification through Faith***

1. According to Romans 10:1, what was Paul's desire and prayer for Israel?
2. Read Romans 3:20–22 and Colossians 2:13–14. What do you think it means that Christ is the end of the law for righteousness?
3. According to Deuteronomy 27:26, Galatians 3:10, and James 2:10, if a person desires to have a righteous standing before God based on the law, what must he or she do?
4. From Romans 10:9–13, how can one be saved?
 - a. Share with your group where you stand before God.
5. In Romans 10:14–15, what was the point of Paul's questions?
 - a. When was the last time that you shared the gospel? How can you grow in making evangelism a priority?

6. In Romans 10:18–21, Paul quoted from Deuteronomy and Isaiah as he returned the focus to Israel. In one or two sentences, summarize the main point of his argument.

Day Four

Read Romans 11; How God is Using the Gentiles in Relationship to Israel

1. From Romans 11:1–10, how did Paul answer the question of whether God rejected Israel? What examples does he give to support his answer?
2. From verses 11–15, what was Israel's transgression and failure?
 - a. How did Israel's failure result in blessing for others?
3. In verses 17–24, what was Paul's warning?
4. In verses 25–27, what was the mystery that Paul explained? Who are the people referenced and what means does God use?

Day Five

Read Romans 11:24–36; God's Unsearchable Ways

1. How does Romans 11:29 encourage you in understanding that God will keep His covenant promises to Israel?
2. In Romans 11:33–36, Paul ended his argument in a beautiful doxology of praise to God. From this text and Romans 11:11–12 and 25–27, what are the unsearchable judgments and inscrutable ways that Paul described?
3. Reviewing Romans 9–11, list verses where you see God's character revealed explicitly. Take time to praise God for these attributes.
4. How does seeing God's plan of redemption revealed in Romans 9–11 help you trust Him with what you face today? Be specific.
5. In Romans 12–16, Paul details how the doctrines outlined earlier in his letter should direct the behavior of the individual believer as well as the congregational life of the church. From each of the following texts, identify one or two spiritual principles and how you could practically implement them in your own life today.
 - a. Romans 12:1–2

b. Romans 12:3-21

c. Romans 13:1-14

d. Romans 14:1-19

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