

"On the Way" 365 Bible Reading Plan**ROMANS 9****Romans 9**

The Apostle Paul left us hanging from the rafters as he took us to the pinnacle of God's amazing and everlasting love for those who belong to Him. Assured that nothing can separate us from the love of God, he addresses a burning question for his time and ours.

Romans 9-11 explains the relationship between the Jew and Gentile and the follower of Jesus, who is a Jew, and those who are not. Paul was constantly accused of teaching doctrines that were contrary to the law of Moses, the Torah, just as Jesus was accused. However, neither taught anything contrary to the Word of God, the Bible, but rather against some of the traditions and interpretations of the Jewish leaders down through the centuries. The Lord Jesus, nor the Apostles, including Paul, did not teach anything contrary to the contextual teachings of the TNK/Old Testament. As we have seen over the course of our journey together through the Bible, God's Word is true and the final authority, template, or paradigm for all of life. But down through the centuries, traditions grew up around those Biblical truths. Those traditions and commentaries existed in two volumes, the Mishnah and the Gemara; the Mishnah is a commentary on the Torah itself, and the Gemara is a commentary on the Mishnah. The two volumes make up the volume called the "Talmud." While the Talmud has many wonderful commentaries on the Words of God, it is in no way to be compared to the inerrancy or infallibility of the Word of God.

The relationship between the nation of Israel and the Church of Jesus has been a point of contention from the first century onward. The Apostle Paul writes more about this subject than any other. He explains the relationship between Jew and Gentile more than anyone, including the Lord Jesus Himself. This is because the Apostle Paul was uniquely called and granted the assignment of being a learned and schooled Jewish man, converted to believe in and follow Jesus of Nazareth, a Jew, and to specifically take the Gospel to the Gentile world. Peter was used to open the door to the Gentiles of the world in Acts 10, but it was Saul of Tarsus, the Apostle Paul, who was called to explain the "mystery" of the church. Romans 9, 10, and 11 together are the most extensive material in the New Testament on the purpose and plan of God for Jews and Gentiles together in the church.

Paul's great sorrow of heart for those of his kinsman, the Jews, is stated immediately as he begins to deal with what was then and now a debated issue, although God's Word is clear. The issue is not what God has said but that man wants to fit God into a paradigm and put Him into a box of their own making. When puny man, no matter how seemingly spiritual and astute, seeks to make God fit into their box, they are seeking to take the place of God. God doesn't fit into boxes; He makes them!

Prayer and Action Steps

As you read through Romans 9,10, and 11, please read them understanding that there is a difference between the Jew and Gentile as far as privilege. Still, all must be saved and forgiven the same way, through the substitutionary sacrifice of Jesus of Nazareth, the Son of God. There is not a way for the Jews to be saved and a different way for Gentiles. Jesus is the Way, the Truth, and the Life. No man can access the Father but through Him.