

ROMANS 22

We will begin this lesson in **Romans 9:18** *"Therefore hath he mercy on whom he will [have mercy], and whom he will he hardeneth."*

Sometimes it is very difficult to understand why God does a specific thing. Remember we are His creation and He can do with us whatever He wishes to do. God does not have to explain to us why He chooses to do something. God looks at the overall picture and we just look at the here and now. Even the fact that sometimes God hardens a person's heart; God has a really good purpose in this to prove something in the overall picture. We find that especially in evil people. Pharaoh is a very good example of this. God hardened Pharaoh's heart until God Himself had discredited all the false gods of Egypt.

Exodus 4:21 *"And the LORD said unto Moses, When thou goest to return into Egypt, see that thou do all those wonders before Pharaoh, which I have put in thine hand: but I will harden his heart, that he shall not let the people go."*

We also see this very same thing in **Joshua 11:20** *"For it was of the LORD to harden their hearts, that they should come against Israel in battle, that he might destroy them utterly, [and] that they might have no favour, but that he might destroy them, as the LORD commanded Moses."*

We are not to question God's motives. In both of these instances, this taught us that God is even in control of Satan and all his evil forces. God can cause them to destroy themselves.

Romans 9:19 *"Thou wilt say then unto me, Why doth he yet find fault? For who hath resisted his will?"*

II Chronicles 20:6 *"And said, O LORD God of our fathers, [art] not thou God in heaven? and rulest [not] thou over all the kingdoms of the heathen? and in thine hand [is there not] power and might, so that none is able to withstand thee?"* This is the perfect explanation here, for who can withstand God? The answer is simple; NO ONE. Even all the heavenly beings are subject to Him. Everything in heaven, everything in earth, and everything under the earth are under His control. We have no opinion coming, if it differs with God's opinion.

Romans 9:20 *"Nay but, O man, who art thou that repliest against God? Shall the thing formed say to him that formed [it], Why hast thou made me thus?"*

Isaiah 45:9 *"Woe unto him that striveth with his Maker! [Let] the potsherd [strive] with the potsherds of the earth. Shall the clay say to him that fashioneth it, What makest thou? or thy work, He hath no hands?"* We can see in these verses above, that we are not to talk back to God on any matter. We are not even to question the things He has done. Someone said to me a few days ago, if God speaks to you, why does He not speak to me? I don't know. It is really none of our business. God is the boss. It is His decision to do with His creation as He wishes. That is the only answer I have for them.

Romans 9:21 *"Hath not the potter power over the clay, of the same lump to make one vessel unto honour, and another unto dishonour?"*

Until we can say, not my will be done but thine O Lord, we are truly not His. One of the first things a Christian must do is let God cut away all the rough edges. We must get on the wheel and let God form us into what He would have us to be. He has a perfect plan for us, if we will just submit and let Him fulfill it. **Isaiah 64:8** *"But now, O LORD, thou [art] our Father; we [are] the clay, and thou our potter; and we all [are] the work of thy hand."*

II Timothy 2:20 *"But in a great house there are not only vessels of gold and of silver, but also of wood and of earth; and some to honour, and some to dishonour."*

II Timothy 2:21 *"If a man therefore purge himself from these, he shall be a vessel unto honour, sanctified, and meet for the master's use, [and] prepared unto every good work."* It is not our job to figure out what we are to do for God. He chooses what position we are to have and we must conform to His wishes.

Romans 9:22 *"[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:"*

II Peter 3:9 *"The Lord is not slack concerning his promise, as some men count slackness; but is longsuffering to us-ward, not willing that any should perish, but that all should come to repentance."*

You see there is a day of God's wrath coming when men will gnaw their tongue for pain, but God loves His creation and is waiting, hoping some more people will come to Him before that terrible day. **Ephesians 5:5** *"For this ye know, that no whoremonger, nor unclean person, nor covetous man, who is an idolater, hath any inheritance in the kingdom of Christ and of God."*

Ephesians 5:6 *"Let no man deceive you with vain words: for because of these things cometh the wrath of God upon the children of disobedience."* We deserve the wrath of God. Only those who accept full pardon through the shed blood of Jesus Christ will be spared the wrath of God which will surely come.

Romans 9:23 *"And that he might make known the riches of his glory on the vessels of mercy, which he had afore prepared unto glory,"*

Romans 9:24 *"Even us, whom he hath called, not of the Jews only, but also of the Gentiles?"*

Ephesians 2:3 *"Among whom also we all had our conversation in times past in the lusts of our flesh, fulfilling the desires of the flesh and of the mind; and were by nature the children of wrath, even as others."*

Ephesians 2:4 *"But God, who is rich in mercy, for his great love wherewith he loved us,"*

Ephesians 2:5 *"Even when we were dead in sins, hath quickened us together with Christ, (by grace ye are saved;)"* You see, the mercy of God is so great that He holds back His wrath until all who will accept Jesus as Saviour have come into the kingdom.

Romans 9:25 *"As he saith also in Hosea, I will call them my people, which were not my people; and her beloved, which was not beloved."*

Romans 9:26 *"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."*

I John 3:1 *"Behold, what manner of love the Father hath bestowed upon us, that we should be called the sons of God: therefore the world knoweth us not, because it knew him not."*

We see in all of this that God is speaking of the Gentiles who become spiritual Israelites through faith in Jesus Christ. **Galatians 3:29** *"And if ye [be] Christ's, then are ye Abraham's seed, and heirs according to the promise."*

Romans 9:27 *"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:"*

Romans 11:4 *"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."* God has always saved a remnant. My own personal opinion of this remnant of 7000 is that they have grown to the 144,000 mentioned in Revelation. Many are called but few are chosen.

Matthew 22:14 *"For many are called, but few [are] chosen."*

Romans 9:28 *"For he will finish the work, and cut [it] short in righteousness: because a short work will the Lord make upon the earth."*

Psalms 9:8 *"And he shall judge the world in righteousness, he shall minister judgment to the people in uprightness."* **Acts 17:31** *"Because he hath appointed a day, in the which he will judge the world in righteousness by [that] man whom he hath ordained; [whereof] he hath given assurance unto all [men], in that he hath raised him from the dead."*

We read of this in Matthew chapter 24. God is not slack, but is longsuffering not willing that any should perish, but that all would come unto righteousness.

Romans 9:29 *"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."*

These 2 evil cities were destroyed by fire and brimstone. We know that God will not always look the other way. Sin of the same nature as that of Sodom and Gomorrah is rampant in the U. S. today. The day of reckoning is coming. America better stop homosexuality, lesbianism, drugs, and all the other related sins of our nation or the wrath of God will fall on the U.S.

Romans 9:30 *"What shall we say then? That the Gentiles, which followed not after righteousness, have attained to righteousness, even the righteousness which is of faith."*

I Corinthians 6:9 *"Know ye not that the unrighteous shall not inherit the kingdom of God? Be not deceived: neither fornicators, nor idolaters, nor adulterers, nor effeminate, nor abusers of themselves with mankind,"* I Corinthians 6:10 *"Nor thieves, nor covetous, nor drunkards, nor revilers, nor extortioners, shall inherit the kingdom of God."* **I Corinthians 6:11** *"And such were some of you: but ye are washed, but ye are sanctified, but ye are justified in the name of the*

Lord Jesus, and by the Spirit of our God." The Gentiles are saved, because they are not depending on their own righteousness to save them, but the blood of Jesus Christ.

Romans 9:31 "But Israel, which followed after the law of righteousness, hath not attained to the law of righteousness."

Romans 9:32 "Wherefore? Because [they sought it] not by faith, but as it were by the works of the law. For they stumbled at that stumbling stone;"

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 marvelous in our eyes?"

Matthew 21:44 "*And whosoever shall fall on this stone shall be broken: but on whomsoever it shall fall, it will grind him to powder.*"

We see in all of this that the Jews rejected Jesus as their Messiah and He turned to the Gentiles who would accept Him. Faith is what pleases God. By faith the elders received a good report. Abraham's faith was counted unto him as righteousness. Our faith in Jesus is what saves us. We cannot be good enough to be saved and neither could the Jews who had the law. We all need a Saviour and His name is Jesus Christ the Righteous.

Romans 9:33 "*As it is written, Behold, I lay in Sion a stumbling stone and rock of offence: and whosoever believeth on him shall not be ashamed.*"

I Peter 2:6 "*Wherefore also it is contained in the scripture, Behold, I lay in Sion a chief corner stone, elect, precious: and he that believeth on him shall not be confounded.*"

I Peter 2:7 "*Unto you therefore which believe [he is] precious: but unto them which be disobedient, the stone which the builders disallowed, the same is made the head of the corner,*"

I Peter 2:8 "*And a stone of stumbling, and a rock of offence, [even to them] which stumble at the word, being disobedient: whereunto also they were appointed.*"

And just one more Scripture makes it very clear.

I John 2:28 "*And now, little children, abide in him; that, when he shall appear, we may have confidence, and not be ashamed before him at his coming.*" There is little to add to this, except to say that our faith in Jesus Christ is our salvation, whether we be Jew or Gentile believers.

Questions 22

1. We learn in Romans 9-18 that God can do what 2 things without explaining to anyone?
2. Why can God do with us whatever He wishes?
3. What name immediately comes to mind when we think of someone whose heart God hardened?
4. What lesson can we learn from the 2 instances of God hardening someone's heart?

5. In 2 Chronicles ch.20 v.6 who can resist God?
6. Can our opinion differ from God's opinion?
7. Shall the thing _____ say to him that _____ it, Why hast thou made me thus?
8. Woe unto him that _____ with his maker.
9. In Romans ch.9 v.21, we find that God makes 2 kinds of people out of one lump, what are they?
10. Until we can make what statement, we are not truly God's?
11. Name the vessels that God made in 2 Timothy 2-20.
12. In 2 Peter ch.3 v.9, we find that God is not slack, but _____?
13. Name the people in Ephesians ch.5 v.5 who will not inherit the kingdom of God.
14. Why is God's wrath going to come on the earth?
15. In Romans ch.9 v.24 we find that God not only called the Jew but the _____ as well.
16. Before we were saved we were by nature children of _____.
17. The people who come to God will be called what that we find in Romans ch.9 v.26?
18. Why does the world not know the Christian?
19. Who are truly Abraham's seed?
20. What one word describes the physical house of Israel?
21. Who does the author think the 7000 mentioned in Romans ch.11 v.4 grew into?
22. Where do we find the Scripture (many are called, but few are chosen)?
23. How shall He judge the world (Psalms ch.9 v.8)?
24. What 2 cities were destroyed by God for the sins they committed?
25. How did God destroy them?
26. What were the sins they were guilty of?
27. First Corinthians ch.6 v.9 names a number of sins that will keep you out of heaven, what are they?
28. All have sinned and deserve death, what saves the Christian?
29. How did the Jews fail in their search for righteousness?
30. Who is the Cornerstone?
31. Abraham's _____ was counted unto him for righteousness.
32. First John ch.2 v.28 little children _____ in Him.

ROMANS 23

We will begin this lesson in **Romans 10:1** "*Brethren, my heart's desire and prayer to God for Israel is, that they might be saved.*"

We have been saying over and over in these lessons how important it was to Paul that the Jewish people would accept Jesus as their Saviour. God actually called Paul to the Gentiles, but he could not help but desire his own people to come to Jesus Christ. We see that the Lord Jesus desired them to be saved as well as Paul, but they would not. We see in **Luke 13:34** "*O Jerusalem, Jerusalem, which killest the prophets, and stonest them that are sent unto thee; how often would I have gathered thy children together, as a hen [doth gather] her brood under [her] wings, and ye would not!*"

Romans 10:2 "*For I bear them record that they have a zeal of God, but not according to knowledge.*"

It is so strange to me that the people who were supposed to know the Word of God the best did not truly understand what that Word was saying, and they rejected their promised Messiah. The Scripture above, says that it was for lack of knowledge. Perhaps, it was for lack of understanding what they were reading. **Hosea 4:6** "*My people are destroyed for lack of knowledge: because thou hast rejected knowledge, I will also reject thee, that thou shalt be no priest to me: seeing thou hast forgotten the law of thy God, I will also forget thy children.*" Even we Christians are warned of the dangers of lack of knowledge.

Romans 10:3 "*For they being ignorant of God's righteousness, and going about to establish their own righteousness, have not submitted themselves unto the righteousness of God.*"

We see from the following Scriptures, the self righteousness of the scribes and Pharisees and how it displeased God. **Luke 18:9** "*And he spake this parable unto certain which trusted in themselves that they were righteous, and despised others:*"

Luke 18:10 "*Two men went up into the temple to pray; the one a Pharisee, and the other a publican.*" **Luke 18:11** "*The Pharisee stood and prayed thus with himself, God, I thank thee, that I am not as other men [are], extortioners, unjust, adulterers, or even as this publican.*"

Luke 18:12 "*I fast twice in the week, I give tithes of all that I possess.*"

Luke 18:13 "*And the publican, standing afar off, would not lift up so much as [his] eyes unto heaven, but smote upon his breast, saying, God be merciful to me a sinner.*"

Luke 18:14 *"I tell you, this man went down to his house justified [rather] than the other: for every one that exalteth himself shall be abased; and he that humbleth himself shall be exalted."* God loves the humble in heart who are looking to Jesus Christ for their righteousness.

Romans 10:4 *"For Christ [is] the end of the law for righteousness to everyone that believeth."*

Jeremiah 23:6 *"In his days Judah shall be saved, and Israel shall dwell safely: and this [is] his name whereby he shall be called, THE LORD OUR RIGHTEOUSNESS."* This is possibly one of the most beautiful names of Jesus Christ in all the Bible, and in the name we see what the Lord has truly done for us. We take on His righteousness, because our righteousness is but filthy rags. **Isaiah 64:6** *"But we are all as an unclean [thing], and all our righteousnesses [are] as filthy rags; and we all do fade as a leaf; and our iniquities, like the wind, have taken us away."* We really must depend on the righteousness of Christ to save us. We put it on when we are washed in the blood of the Lamb [Jesus Christ].

Romans 10:5 *"For Moses describeth the righteousness which is of the law, That the man which doeth those things shall live by them."*

Leviticus 18:5 *"Ye shall therefore keep my statutes, and my judgments: which if a man do, he shall live in them: I [am] the LORD."*

There were literally hundreds of the Levitical laws that had to be kept to be righteous in the law. There was absolutely no way that a person could even keep up with them, much less keep them. Jesus came and fulfilled them for us that we might live by the grace of God.

Romans 10:6 *"But the righteousness which is of faith speaketh on this wise, Say not in thine heart, Who shall ascend into heaven? (that is, to bring Christ down [from above]:)"*

Romans 10:7 *"Or, Who shall descend into the deep? (that is, to bring up Christ again from the dead.)"*

Deuteronomy 30:11 *"For this commandment which I command thee this day, it [is] not hidden from thee, neither [is] it far off."* **Deuteronomy 30:12** *"It [is] not in heaven, that thou shouldest say, Who shall go up for us to heaven, and bring it unto us, that we may hear it, and do it?"* **Deuteronomy 30:13** *"Neither [is] it beyond the sea, that thou shouldest say, Who shall go over the sea for us, and bring it unto us, that we may hear it, and do it?"*

Deuteronomy 30:14 *"But the word [is] very nigh unto thee, in thy mouth, and in thy heart, that thou mayest do it."* We really had very little to do with the great gift God gave us of His only Son to give His body on the cross that we might live. God loved us while we were yet in sin. The gift of righteousness He provided for us is free, all we have to do is believe and receive it.

Romans 10:8 *"But what saith it? The word is nigh thee, [even] in thy mouth, and in thy heart: that is, the word of faith, which we preach;"*

Matthew 10:32 "Whosoever therefore shall confess me before men, him will I confess also before my Father which is in heaven." **Matthew 10:33** "*But whosoever shall deny me before men, him will I also deny before my Father which is in heaven.*" We can clearly see the importance of the things we say from all of this. Faith, we know is believing in things we cannot see. If you can see something, it takes no faith to believe. Jesus Himself said, blessed are those who have not seen and yet believed. **John 20:29** "*Jesus saith unto him, Thomas, because thou hast seen me, thou hast believed: blessed [are] they that have not seen, and [yet] have believed.*"

Romans 10:9 "*That if thou shalt confess with thy mouth the Lord Jesus, and shalt believe in thine heart that God hath raised him from the dead, thou shalt be saved.*"

This leaves absolutely no doubt at all what we must do to be saved. We also read that our father Abraham believed and it was counted unto him for righteousness.

Genesis 15:6 "*And he believed in the LORD; and he counted it to him for righteousness.*"

Romans 10:10 "For with the heart man believeth unto righteousness; and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation."

Verse 9 and 10 above are used in my messages very often, because it leaves no doubt at all what you and I must do to be saved. Really the first baptism takes place in your heart. When you repent of your sins, Jesus washes your heart with His blood and you receive a brand new heart with the laws of God written on the fleshly parts of your heart. It is like a heart transplant. Jesus has given you a brand new heart, washed in the blood of the Lamb.

Romans 10:11 "*For the scripture saith, Whosoever believeth on him shall not be ashamed.*"

I Peter 2:6 "Wherefore also it is contained in the scripture, *Behold, I lay in Sion a chief corner stone, elect, precious: and he that believeth on him shall not be confounded.*" If you have really made Jesus the Lord of your life, you want to tell everybody you see. Christians are the bride of Christ. Have you ever seen a new bride that can keep quiet about her groom?

Romans 10:12 "For there is no difference between the Jew and the Greek: for the same Lord over all is rich unto all that call upon him."

Galatians 3:28 "*There is neither Jew nor Greek, there is neither bond nor free, there is neither male nor female: for ye are all one in Christ Jesus.*" We see from this that the only thing that can keep us from receiving Christ is ourself. If we refuse to receive Him, in our life, He will not force Himself on us. If we truly want to receive Him He will not deny us.

Revelation 22:17 "*And the Spirit and the bride say, Come. And let him that heareth say, Come. And let him that is athirst come. And whosoever will, let him take the water of life freely.*"

Romans 10:13 "*For whosoever shall call upon the name of the Lord shall be saved.*"

Acts 2:21 *"And it shall come to pass, [that] whosoever shall call on the name of the Lord shall be saved."* We see from these 2 Scriptures that God answers when we call on Him. His greatest desire is that all will come to Him.

Romans 10:14 *"How then shall they call on him in whom they have not believed? and how shall they believe in him of whom they have not heard? and how shall they hear without a preacher?"*

Now, we see the reason God chose preachers to work here on the earth.

I Corinthians 1:21 *"For after that in the wisdom of God the world by wisdom knew not God, it pleased God by the foolishness of preaching to save them that believe."* We, also, see by the foolish things of this world God confounded the wise.

I Corinthians 1:27 *"But God hath chosen the foolish things of the world to confound the wise; and God hath chosen the weak things of the world to confound the things which are mighty;"*

Romans 10:15 *"And how shall they preach, except they be sent? As it is written, How beautiful are the feet of them that preach the gospel of peace, and bring glad tidings of good things!"*

Isaiah 52:7 *"How beautiful upon the mountains are the feet of him that bringeth good tidings, that publisheth peace; that bringeth good tidings of good, that publisheth salvation; that saith unto Zion, Thy God reigneth!"* We see, here, almost the exact Scripture. The God of the Old Testament is the same as the God of the New Testament. **Matthew 28:19** *"Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost:"*

Matthew 28:20 *"Teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you: and, lo, I am with you always, [even] unto the end of the world. Amen."*

Romans 10:16 *"But they have not all obeyed the gospel. For Esaias saith, Lord, who hath believed our report?"*

Hebrews 4:2 *"For unto us was the gospel preached, as well as unto them: but the word preached did not profit them, not being mixed with faith in them that heard [it]."* As we have said in so many of these lessons, it is not profitable to just hear the Truth, we must accept it and live by it, also.

Romans 10:17 *"So then faith [cometh] by hearing, and hearing by the word of God."*

Luke 11:28 *"But he said, Yea rather, blessed [are] they that hear the word of God, and keep it."* It is the Word of God that is powerful, that convicts us of our sin and sets us on the road to salvation. Look at the next Scripture and see just how powerful this Word is.

Hebrews 4:12 *"For the word of God [is] quick, and powerful, and sharper than any two edged sword, piercing even to the dividing asunder of soul and spirit, and of the joints and marrow, and [is] a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart."*

Romans 10:18 *"But I say, Have they not heard? Yes verily, their sound went into all the earth, and their words unto the ends of the world."*

Matthew 24:14 *"And this gospel of the kingdom shall be preached in all the world for a witness unto all nations; and then shall the end come."* With the advantage of television and satellite dishes, we have seen this Scripture above fulfilled. Man is without excuse before God; we have been forewarned.

Romans 10:19 *"But I say, Did not Israel know? First Moses saith, will provoke you to jealousy by [them that are] no people, [and] by a foolish nation I will anger you."*

Romans 10:20 *"But Esaias is very bold, and saith, I was found of them that sought me not; I was made manifest unto them that asked not after me."*

Romans 10:21 *"But to Israel he saith, All day long I have stretched forth my hands unto a disobedient and gainsaying people."*

We will see that the Gentiles were not God's first choice to bring the salvation message to, but when the Jewish people rejected Jesus, then salvation was offered to the Gentile.

Jeremiah 35:15 *"I have sent also unto you all my servants the prophets, rising up early and sending [them], saying, Return ye now every man from his evil way, and amend your doings, and go not after other gods to serve them, and ye shall dwell in the land which I have given to you and to your fathers: but ye have not inclined your ear, nor hearkened unto me."*

God gave them literally thousands of years to repent and follow Him and they did not.

Questions 23

1. In verse 1 Paul's desire for Israel was what?

2. In Luke ch.13 v.34, who did Jesus say killed the prophets?
3. Paul said the Jews had a zeal for God, but not to what?
4. In Hosea ch.4 v.6, the people were destroyed for what?
5. What was wrong with the righteousness of these Jews?
6. In Luke the 18th chapter, which of the two men who went to the temple pleased God?
7. Christ is the end of the law for righteousness to whom?
8. In Jeremiah ch.23 v.6, what name is the Lord to be called?
9. Where do we find the Scripture that says our righteousness is filthy rags?
10. How do the Christians fulfill the law?
11. Explain what is intended in Romans ch10 v.6.
12. How close is salvation to us, that we read about in Deuteronomy ch.30 v.14?
13. What did Paul say he preached in verse 8?
14. Who will Jesus confess before the Father?
15. In John ch.20 v.29, who are the blessed?
16. Quote Romans ch.10 v.9.
17. What was counted unto Abraham as righteousness?
18. With the _____ man believeth unto righteousness.
19. What happens to your heart when you repent of your sins?
20. Have you ever seen a bride who can keep quiet about her groom?
21. Is there a difference between the Jew and Greek?
22. What is the only thing that can keep us from receiving Christ?
23. Where do we find the Scripture that says, whosoever will can come to Christ?
24. What is the greatest desire of Jesus toward us?
25. Romans ch.10 v.4 says, how shall they hear without whom?
26. It pleased God by the foolishness of _____ to save them who believe.
27. How shall they preach except they be _____?
28. What part of the body is mentioned as being beautiful of those who preach the gospel?
29. Matthew ch.28 v.9 explains to baptize in whose name?
30. It is not profitable to just hear the gospel, we must do what?
31. How does faith come?
32. Luke ch.11 v.28 says who are blessed?
33. What Scripture tells of the power of the Word?
34. When shall the end come?

35. When the Jewish people rejected Jesus, who was the salvation message brought to?

ROMANS 24

We will begin this lesson in **Romans 11:1** *"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."*

We see here, again, that Paul is proud of his Israelite heritage. Paul mentions this heritage several times in his writings. **2nd Corinthians 11:22** *"Are they Hebrews? so [am] I. Are they Israelites? so [am] I. Are they the seed of Abraham? so [am] I."* And we, also, read in Paul's writings **Philippians 3:5** *"Circumcised the eighth day, of the stock of Israel, [of] the tribe of Benjamin, an Hebrew of the Hebrews; as touching the law, a Pharisee;"* Paul is very proud that he was of the physical house of Israel as well as the spiritual house of Israel.

We, also, see that God never completely gives up on the physical house of Israel even if they have walked away from Him. **Jeremiah 33:24** *"Considerest thou not what this people have spoken, saying, The two families which the LORD hath chosen, he hath even cast them off? Thus they have despised my people, that they should be no more a nation before them."* **Jeremiah 33:25** *"Thus saith the LORD; If my covenant [be] not with day and night, [and if] I have not appointed the ordinances of heaven and earth;"* **Jeremiah 33:26** *"Then will I cast away the seed of Jacob, and David my servant, [so] that I will not take [any] of his seed [to be] rulers over the seed of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob: for I will cause their captivity to return, and have mercy on them."* God is long-suffering and is always ready to forgive them and receive them back.

Romans 11:2 *"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,"*

Romans 11:3 *"Lord, they have killed thy prophets, and digged down thine altars; and I am left alone, and they seek my life."*

I Kings 19:10 *"And he said, I have been very jealous for the LORD God of hosts: for the children of Israel have forsaken thy covenant, thrown down thine altars, and slain thy prophets with the sword; and I, [even] I only, am left; and they seek my life, to take it away."*

I Kings 19:11 *"And he said, Go forth, and stand upon the mount before the LORD. And, behold, the LORD passed by, and a great and strong wind rent the mountains, and brake in pieces the rocks before the LORD; [but] the LORD [was] not in the wind: and after the wind an earthquake; [but] the LORD [was] not in the earthquake:"*

I Kings 19:12 *"And after the earthquake a fire; [but] the LORD [was] not in the fire: and after the fire a still small voice."* **I Kings 19:13** *"And it was [so], when Elijah heard [it] that he wrapped his face in his mantle, and went out, and stood in the entering in of the cave. And, behold, [there came] a voice unto him, and said, What doest thou here, Elijah?"*

I Kings 19:14 *"And he said, I have been very jealous for the LORD God of hosts: because the children of Israel have forsaken thy covenant, thrown down thine altars, and slain thy prophets with the sword; and I, [even] I only, am left; and they seek my life, to take it away."*

We can see from this that God is interested in just one prophet that belongs to Him. God will not forsake His own. Just as any parent will not forsake their children, God will not forsake His own.

Romans 11:4 *"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."*

I Kings 19:18 *"Yet I have left [me] seven thousand in Israel, all the knees which have not bowed unto Baal, and every mouth which hath not kissed him."* We see something very distinctive here. This is established by two, an Old and a New Testament book. God will save a remnant as we said in a previous lesson. I believe the 144,000 who are sealed with the Father's seal in Revelation are the remnant. Remember once again that they have the seal of the Father God and the large number around the throne in heaven at the same time have on the white garment of righteousness and belong to God the Son. They have been washed in the blood of the Lamb.

Romans 11:5 *"Even so then at this present time also there is a remnant according to the election of grace."*

Romans 11:6 *"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."*

Ephesians 2:8 *"For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: [it is] the gift of God:"* **Ephesians 2:9** *"Not of works, lest any man should boast."* We see from this that we can not work our way to heaven. Salvation is a free gift. Truly even the Holy Spirit must woo you, or the desire to come to Jesus would never be there. Our part in all of this is to reach out and take what God has offered to us. Truly we have nothing to do with who we are as we read in this next Scripture. **I Corinthians 15:10** *"But by the grace of God I am what I am: and his grace which [was bestowed] upon me was not in vain; but I laboured more abundantly than they all: yet not I, but the grace of God which was with me."*

Romans 11:7 *"What then? Israel hath not obtained that which he seeketh for; but the election hath obtained it, and the rest were blinded"*

Romans 11:8 *"(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."*

Matthew 13:14 *"And in them is fulfilled the prophecy of Esaias, which saith, By hearing ye shall hear, and shall not understand; and seeing ye shall see, and shall not perceive:"*

Matthew 13:15 *"For this people's heart is waxed gross, and [their] ears are dull of hearing, and their eyes they have closed; lest at any time they should see with [their] eyes and hear with [their] ears, and should understand with [their] heart, and should be converted, and I should heal them."* These Scriptures leave no doubt that God first must call us and the Holy Spirit has to reveal to us the meaning, or we, too, would be blinded. It is God that opens our ears of understanding to His Word.

He is our source, we must depend on Him. The beginning of wisdom is to fear God. This fear is to reverence Him or to hold Him in awe. Unless God reveals Himself to us, we do not truly know Him. He loves everyone and wants us all to love Him, but if we choose not to follow Him, He will stop up our ears and eyes and we will not be able to understand. He does not want us to come to Him with our mind, He wants our heart. **Ezekiel 12:2** *"Son of man, thou dwellest in the midst of a rebellious house, which have eyes to see, and see not; they have ears to hear, and hear not: for they [are] a rebellious house."* **Mark 4:11** *"And he said unto them, Unto you it is given to know the mystery of the kingdom of God: but unto them that are without, all [these] things are done in parables:"* **Mark 4:12** *"That seeing they may see, and not perceive; and hearing they may hear, and not understand; lest at any time they should be converted, and [their] sins should be forgiven them."* This is because of their evil heart that Jesus does not reveal Himself to them.

Romans 11:9 *"And David saith, Let their table be made a snare, and a trap, and a stumbling block, and a recompence unto them:"*

Romans 11:10 *"Let their eyes be darkened, that they may not see, and bow down their back alway."*

Recompence means to quit like men. **I Timothy 6:17** "*Charge them that are rich in this world, that they be not highminded, nor trust in uncertain riches, but in the living God, who giveth us richly all things to enjoy;*" **I Timothy 6:18** "*That they do good, that they be rich in good works, ready to distribute, willing to communicate;*" **I Timothy 6:19** "*Laying up in store for themselves a good foundation against the time to come, that they may lay hold on eternal life.*" We see from these 3 Scriptures that to whom much is given, much is required. This does not mean just wealth of money, but has to do with knowledge of the Bible, as well. To know God and His Word and then to sin is much worse than to sin in ignorance. In the 23rd Psalm, we see the opposite of this table. **Psalms 23:5** "*Thou preparest a table before me in the presence of mine enemies: thou anointest my head with oil; my cup runneth over.*" David's table was a blessing and theirs was a curse.

They did not have their heart right with God.

Romans 11:11 "*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.*"

Acts 13:42 "*And when the Jews were gone out of the synagogue, the Gentiles besought that these words might be preached to them the next Sabbath.*" We see that the Gentiles readily accepted the Lord Jesus Christ when the Jews rejected Jesus. God still loves the Jew [the physical house of Israel] and, as we have been reading, He will save a remnant of them.

Romans 11:12 "*Now if the fall of them [be] the riches of the world, and the diminishing of them the riches of the Gentiles; how much more their fulness?"*

This is just God's way of allowing the Gentile believers to be saved. We Gentile believers have been grafted in to the family of God. We are His adopted children.

Romans 8:15 "*For ye have not received the spirit of bondage again to fear; but ye have received the Spirit of adoption, whereby we cry, Abba, Father.*"

Romans 11:13 "*For I speak to you Gentiles, inasmuch as I am the apostle of the Gentiles, I magnify mine office:"*

Romans 11:14 "*If by any means I may provoke to emulation [them which are] my flesh, and might save some of them.*"

Paul was actually commissioned of God to bring the salvation message to the Gentiles, but he could not quite ever give up on his brothers, the Jews. **Acts 9:15** "*But the Lord said unto him, Go thy way: for he is a chosen vessel unto me, to bear my name before the Gentiles, and kings, and the children of Israel:*" You can see from this that his first call was to the Gentile. I will give you one Scripture of many that shows that Paul was aware of his call to the Gentiles.

II Timothy 1:11 *"Whereunto I am appointed a preacher, and an apostle, and a teacher of the Gentiles."* Paul in verse 14 above is saying that, perhaps, while he is bringing this message to the Gentiles, some of his Hebrew brothers will hear and understand, as well.

Romans 11:15 *"For if the casting away of them [be] the reconciling of the world, what [shall] the receiving [of them be], but life from the dead?"*

There is no better example of this in all the Bible than in Ezekiel where the story of the dry bones is found. In this account we will see, that at the end God will bring back to life the natural Israelite, and they and the spiritual house of Israel {Christians} will all be part of the family of God. The 2 sticks that come together are the spiritual and the physical houses of Israel. Jesus Christ {their Messiah} saves us all. **Ezekiel 37:1** *"The hand of the LORD was upon me, and carried me out in the spirit of the LORD, and set me down in the midst of the valley which [was] full of bones,"* **Ezekiel 37:2** *"And caused me to pass by them round about: and, behold, [there were] very many in the open valley; and, lo, [they were] very dry."* **Ezekiel 37:3** *"And he said unto me, Son of man, can these bones live? And I answered, O Lord GOD, thou knowest."* **Ezekiel 37:4** *"Again he said unto me, Prophecy upon these bones, and say unto them, O ye dry bones, hear the word of the LORD."* **Ezekiel 37:5** *"Thus saith the Lord GOD unto these bones; Behold, I will cause breath to enter into you, and ye shall live:"*

Ezekiel 37:6 *"And I will lay sinews upon you, and will bring up flesh upon you, and cover you with skin, and put breath in you, and ye shall live; and ye shall know that I [am] the LORD."*

Ezekiel 37:7 *"So I prophesied as I was commanded: and as I prophesied, there was a noise, and behold a shaking, and the bones came together, bone to his bone."* **Ezekiel 37:8** *"And when I beheld, lo, the sinews and the flesh came up upon them, and the skin covered them above: but*

[there was] no breath in them." **Ezekiel 37:9** *"Then said he unto me, Prophecy unto the wind, prophesy, son of man, and say to the wind, Thus saith the Lord GOD; Come from the four winds, O breath, and breathe upon these slain, that they may live."* **Ezekiel 37:10** *"So I prophesied as he commanded me, and the breath came into them, and they lived, and stood up upon their feet, an exceeding great army."* **Ezekiel 37:11** *"Then he said unto me, Son of man, these bones are the whole house of Israel: behold, they say, Our bones are dried, and our hope*

is lost: we are cut off for our parts." **Ezekiel 37:12** *"Therefore prophesy and say unto them, Thus saith the Lord GOD; Behold, O my people, I will open your graves, and cause you to come up out of your graves, and bring you into the land of Israel."* **Ezekiel 37:13** *"And ye shall know that I [am] the LORD, when I have opened your graves, O my people, and brought you up out of your graves,"* **Ezekiel 37:14** *"And shall put my spirit in you, and ye shall live, and I shall place you in your own land: then shall ye know that I the LORD have*

spoken [it], and performed [it], saith the LORD." In verse 11 above, the word whole is used meaning the physical and the spiritual house of Israel.

Questions 24

1. In verse one Paul asks, Has God cast away His people, has He?
2. What 3 things does Paul call himself in verse one?
3. He wrote that he was an Israelite in other books, name them.
4. God is _____ and is always ready to forgive.
5. Who had Elias made intercession for?
6. In verse 3 what 2 things had they done that made Elias think that he alone was left?
7. In 1 Kings chapter 19 what mighty things were mentioned that God was not in?
8. What was God in?
9. Elias in Romans is the same person as _____ in 1 Kings.
10. God will not _____ His own.
11. In chapter 11 verse 4, how many had God reserved who had not bowed their knee to Baal?
12. What Old Testament Scripture is the second witness of this which makes it absolute?
13. This remnant is according to what in verse 5?
14. Quote Ephesians ch.2 v.8.
15. Why is it not of works that we are saved?
16. Paul says by what {I am, what I am}?
17. In verse 7, we see that who obtained while all others were blinded?
18. Describe the eyes and ears of those who did not receive it.
19. Who opens our understanding to God's Word?
20. What is the beginning of wisdom?
21. God does not want our mind, He wants what?
22. Why does Jesus not reveal Himself to some people?
23. In verse 9 David said for those who reject the truth to have their table be what?
24. In verse 10, what will happen to their eyes?
25. What does recompense mean?
26. In 1 Timothy ch.6 v.17, what are those who are rich in this world to do?

27. Quote Psalms ch.23 v.5.
28. In verse 11, we see that their fall came for what purpose?
29. In Acts ch.13 v.42 when the Jews had gone out of the synagogue who asked that the message be brought to them on the next Sabbath?
30. Who is the physical house of Israel?
31. In verse 12 we see that the diminishing of them be riches to whom?
32. In Romans ch.8 v.15 we have received what spirit?
33. When we have been added to the family of God, what should we cry?
34. Who was Paul commissioned to bring the salvation message to?
35. Who did Paul desire to save whatever it took?
36. In verse 15, what does the receiving of them bring?
37. In Ezekiel chapter 37, what does the story of the dry bones bring?
38. Who are the dry bones mentioned in Ezekiel ch.37 v.11?
39. What causes these dry bones to live in Ezekiel ch.37 v.14?
40. Why is the word whole used in verse 11 of Ezekiel 37?