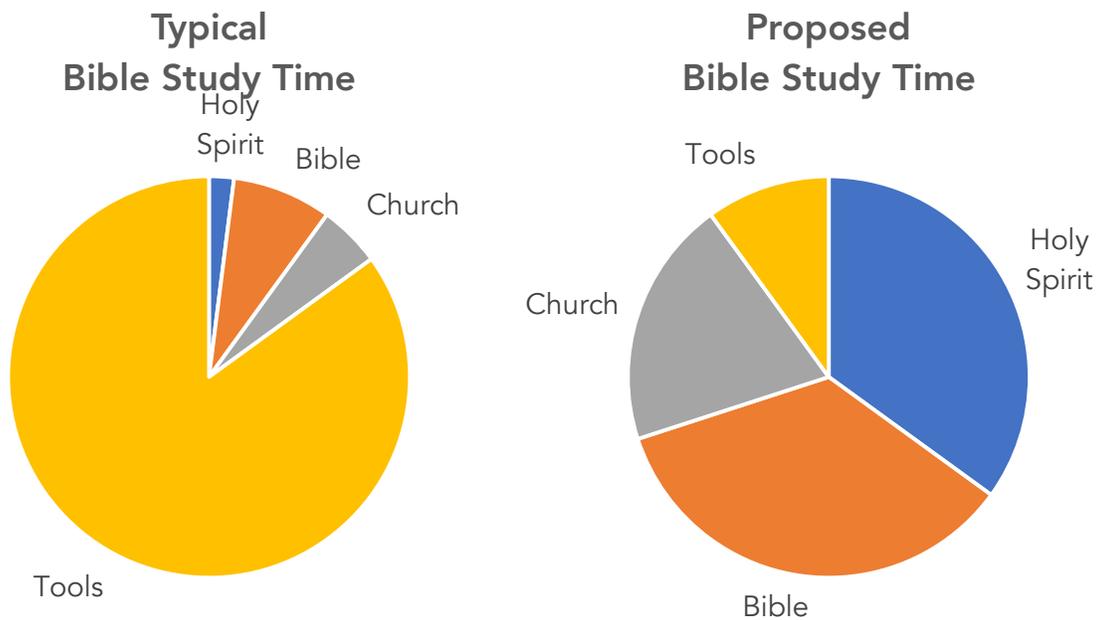


Romans

God's Sovereign Choice ([Romans 9:1-29](#))

Introduction

A gentle review: **Did we do this?** Spend more time with God and His Word than with anyone and anything else.



Our approach each week will be REAP (read, explain, apply, personalize).

Here's our outline of the book of [Romans](#) (summarized from the ESV's outline):

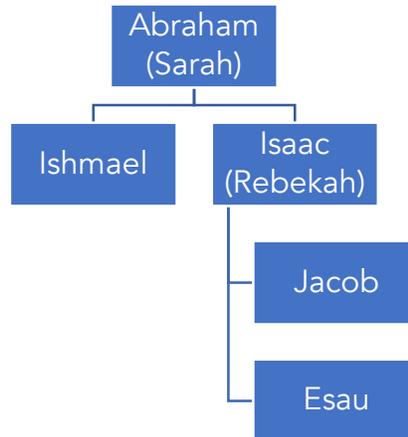
- ✓ Paul's Introduction & Righteousness Introduced ([1:1-17](#)) (three weeks)
- ✓ Righteous Wrath ([1:18-3:20](#)) (six weeks)
- ✓ Saving Righteousness ([3:21-4:25](#)) (three weeks)
- ✓ Righteous Freedom ([5:1-8:39](#)) (11 weeks)
- 5. Righteousness → Jews ([9:1-11:36](#)) (post July 4 to Labor Day) (eight weeks)
- 6. Righteous Living ([12:1-15:13](#)) (post Labor Day to October) (nine weeks)
- 7. Paul's Closing ([15:14-16:23](#)) (November to early December) (five weeks)
- 8. Righteousness Summarized ([16:25-27](#)) (December & wrap up) (two weeks)

Today's text ([Romans 9:1-29](#)) is the first part of this major section.

Review #1: all that God does is good, right, and holy—whether or not we understand and/or can explain it.

Review #2: contradiction = I am wearing a shirt and I am not wearing a shirt. Not a contradiction = I am wearing a red shirt and I am wearing a white shirt. Be very wary claiming contradictions in the Bible (and don't write off what you don't understand).

Review #3: Israeli family history



Read: God's Sovereign Choice (9:1-29)

1 I am speaking the truth in Christ—I am not lying; my conscience bears me witness in the Holy Spirit— **2** that I have great sorrow and unceasing anguish in my heart. **3** For I could wish that I myself were accursed and cut off from Christ for the sake of my brothers, my kinsmen according to the flesh. **4** They are Israelites, and to them belong the adoption, the glory, the covenants, the giving of the law, the worship, and the promises. **5** To them belong the patriarchs, and from their race, according to the flesh, is the Christ, who is God over all, blessed forever. Amen.

6 But it is not as though the word of God has failed. For not all who are descended from Israel belong to Israel, **7** and not all are children of Abraham because they are his offspring, but "Through Isaac shall your offspring be named." **8** This means that it is not the children of the flesh who are the children of God, but the children of the promise are counted as offspring. **9** For this is what the promise said: "About this time next year I will return, and Sarah shall have a son." **10** And not only so, but also when Rebekah had conceived children by one man, our forefather Isaac, **11** though they were not yet born and had done nothing either good or bad—in order that God's purpose of election might continue, not because of works but because of him who calls— **12** she was told, "The older will serve the younger." **13** As it is written, "Jacob I loved, but Esau I hated."

14 What shall we say then? Is there injustice on God's part? By no means! **15** For he says to Moses, "I will have mercy on whom I have mercy, and I will have compassion on whom I have compassion." **16** So then it depends not on human will or exertion, but

on God, who has mercy. **17** For the Scripture says to Pharaoh, "For this very purpose I have raised you up, that I might show my power in you, and that my name might be proclaimed in all the earth." **18** So then he has mercy on whomever he wills, and he hardens whomever he wills.

19 You will say to me then, "Why does he still find fault? For who can resist his will?" **20** But who are you, O man, to answer back to God? Will what is molded say to its molder, "Why have you made me like this?" **21** Has the potter no right over the clay, to make out of the same lump one vessel for honorable use and another for dishonorable use? **22** What if God, desiring to show his wrath and to make known his power, has endured with much patience vessels of wrath prepared for destruction, **23** in order to make known the riches of his glory for vessels of mercy, which he has prepared beforehand for glory— **24** even us whom he has called, not from the Jews only but also from the Gentiles? **25** As indeed he says in Hosea,

"Those who were not my people I will call 'my people,'
and her who was not beloved I will call 'beloved.'"

26 "And in the very place where it was said to them, 'You are not my people,'
there they will be called 'sons of the living God.'"

27 And Isaiah cries out concerning Israel: "Though the number of the sons of Israel be as the sand of the sea, only a remnant of them will be saved, **28** for the Lord will carry out his sentence upon the earth fully and without delay." **29** And as Isaiah predicted,
"If the Lord of hosts had not left us offspring,
we would have been like Sodom
and become like Gomorrah."

Explain: God's Sovereign Choice (9:1-29)

Bible study is asking and answering questions about the text. Let's ask some questions.

Are there any literary/structural observations?

We move into this new major section and Paul again begins to quote Old Testament passages in [Romans 9:1-14](#) (we're splitting this large text of [Romans 9:1-29](#) into two weeks of Sunday school classes): [Genesis 21:12; 18:10; 25:23; Malachi 1:2-3](#).

Why? Because he's talking to his Jewish brothers and sisters again and the Jews would know the Old Testament and Paul is going to use the Old Testament to lay down doctrine they needed to know.

What do the words mean?

1 I am speaking [present active indicative] **the truth in Christ—I am not lying** [present middle indicative]; **my conscience** [co-perception, moral consciousness, conscience; same word used in [Romans 2:15](#)] **bears me witness** [present active participle; *symmartyreo* (with + martyr); to testify jointly, corroborate by concurrent evidence, testify unto, bear witness with; same word used in [Romans 2:15; 8:16](#)] **in the Holy** [sacred, pure, consecrated, holy, saint; same word used in [Romans 1:2, 7; 5:5; 7:12; 8:27](#)] **Spirit** [*pneuma*]**— 2 that I have** [present middle indicative] **great** [*megas*; big, exceedingly, great, high, large, loud, mighty, sore afraid, strong; Jim’s note: it seems odd to me that such a common concept as large hasn’t been used by Paul to this point in [Romans](#) (especially given some of the severity to which some of the ideas he’s communicated have stretched)] **sorrow** [sadness, grief, heaviness, sorrow] **and unceasing** [unintermitted, permanent, without ceasing, continual] **anguish** [grief, dejection, sorrow] **in my heart. 3 For I could wish** [imperfect (action continually or repeatedly happening in past time) middle indicative; wish, pray, **will**] **that I myself were accursed** [*anathema*; present middle infinitive; banned, excommunicated, accursed, anathema, cursed] **and cut off from** [away from, separation, departure, cessation, completion, reversal] **Christ for the sake of** [above, beyond, across, for the sake of, instead, regarding, more than, on behalf of, on the part of] **my brothers, my kinsmen** [*syngenes*; relative, countryman, cousin, kinfolk, kinsman] **according to the flesh. 4 They are** [present middle indicative] **Israelites, and to them belong the adoption** [the placing as a son, adoption of children, adoption of sons; same word used in [Romans 8:15, 23](#)], **the glory** [very apparent glory, dignity, glory, honor, praise, worship; same word used in [Romans 1:23; 2:7, 10; 3:7, 23; 4:20; 5:2; 6:4; 8:18, 21](#)], **the covenants** [disposition, contract, will, covenant, testament], **the giving of the law** [*nomothesia*; legislation, giving of the law], **the worship** [ministration, worship, divine service], **and the promises** [announcement, message, promise; same word used in [Romans 4:13, 14, 16, 20](#)]. **5 To them belong** [present middle participle] **the patriarchs** [fathers, parents], **and from their race, according to the flesh, is** [present middle participle] **the Christ, who is** [present middle participle] **God over all, blessed** [adorable, blessed; same word used in [Romans 1:25](#)] **forever** [for an age, in perpetuity, for the duration of the world, present age, future age, eternal, forever, without end; same word used in [Romans 1:25](#)]. **Amen** [firm, trustworthy, surely, so be it, amen, verily; same word used in [Romans 1:25](#)].

6 But it is not as though the word [*logos*] **of God has failed** [perfect (completed action with the results continuing) active indicative; dropped away, driven out of its course (like a golf cart driven off the cart path), lose, become inefficient, be cast away, fail, fall away, fall off, take none effect]. **For not all who are descended from** [‘of’ in Greek] **Israel belong to Israel** [Paul talked about a very similar concept in [Romans 4](#) by saying

keeping the Law doesn't make you a son of Abraham—faith makes you a son of Abraham. And he expands on a similar concept here. Similarly, the American Great Awakening had a similar concept that was made popular: God has no grandchildren. The thrust was focused on the fact that you (personally) are either a child of God or you are not—there's no other way to a relationship than personally.], **7 and not all are** [present middle indicative] **children** [children, daughters, sons; same word used in **Romans 8:16, 17, 21**] **of Abraham because they are his offspring** [sperma; seed, offspring, remnant, issue; same word used in **Romans 1:3; 4:13, 16**], **but** [**Genesis 21:12** (God speaking to Abraham about the future birth of his son)] **"Through Isaac shall your offspring** [sperma; seed, offspring, remnant, issue; same word used in **Romans 1:3; 4:13, 16**, and earlier in **9:7**] **be named** [future middle indicative; this may be talking about Jesus, but it may also be talking about the title of "Israelites" that God would give His children through Isaac's son Jacob]." **8 This means that it is** [present middle indicative] **not the children** [children, daughters, sons; same word used in **Romans 8:16, 17, 21; 9:7**] **of the flesh** [not the physical body] **who are the children** [children, daughters, sons; same word used in **Romans 8:16, 17, 21; 9:7**] **of God, but the children** [children, daughters, sons; same word used in **Romans 8:16, 17, 21; 9:7**, and earlier in **9:8**] **of the promise** [announcement, message, promise; same word used in **Romans 4:13, 14, 16, 20; 9:4**] **are counted** [logizomai; present middle indicative; taken inventory, estimated, concluded, esteemed, imputed, numbered, reasoned, reckoned; same word used in **Romans 2:3, 26; 3:28; 4:3, 4, 5, 6, 8, 9, 10, 11, 22, 23, 24; 6:11; 8:18, 36**] **as offspring** [sperma; seed, offspring, remnant, issue; same word used in **Romans 1:3; 4:13, 16; 9:7** (twice); Our biological father does not guarantee our spiritual father]. **9 For this is what the promise** [announcement, message, promise; same word used in **Romans 4:13, 14, 16, 20; 9:4, 8**] **said** [logos]: [**Genesis 18:10**] **"About this time** [occasion, proper time, opportunity, season, time, while; same word used in **Romans 3:26; 5:6; 8:18**] **next year I will return** [future active indicative], **and Sarah shall have** [future middle indicative] **a son** [child, son; same word used in **Romans 1:3, 4, 9; 5:10; 8:3, 14, 19, 29, 32**]." **10 And not only so, but also when Rebekah** [Isaac's wife] **had conceived** [koite; present active participle; couch, cohabitation, bed, chambering, conceive] **children by one man, our forefather Isaac, 11 though they were not yet born** [aorist middle participle; procreated, regenerated, born, beget, brought forth, conceived, delivered, gendered, made, sprung] **and had done** [perform repeatedly, habitually, execute, accomplish, collect, fare, commit, deeds, do, exact, keep, require, use arts; same word used in **Romans 1:32; 2:1, 2, 3, 25; 7:15, 19**] **nothing either good** [benefit, good, well; same word used in **Romans 2:7, 10; 3:8; 5:7; 7:12, 13, 18, 19; 8:28**] **or bad** [foul, flawed, wicked, evil]—**in order that God's purpose** [setting forth, proposal, intention, the show bread as exposed before God, purpose, showbread] **of election** [selection, chosen, election] **might continue** [present active subjunctive (probability or

possibility); stay, abide, continue, dwell, endure, be present, remain, stand, tarry; God chose which one He was going to use before they were born (soak on that)], **not because of works** [works, toils, effort, occupation, act, doing, labor; same word used in **Romans 2:6, 7, 15; 3:20, 27, 28; 4:2, 6**] **but because of him who calls** [present active participle; **Who calls?** God]— **12 she was told** [aorist middle indicative; flow (as in flowing words)], [**Genesis 25:23**] **"The older** [larger in age, elder, greater, more] **will serve** [*douleuo*; future active indicative; be a slave, be in bondage, do service; same word used in **Romans 6:6; 7:6, 25**] **the younger** [smaller in age, less, under, worse, younger]." **13 As it is written** [perfect (completed action with the results continuing) middle indicative], [**Malachi 1:2-3**] **"Jacob I loved** [*agapao*; aorist active indicative], **but Esau I hated** [aorist active indicative; detest, love less, hate; same word used in **Romans 7:15**]."

Week 25 homework:

- Write down what **Romans 9:14-29** says and think about the implications of those statements.
- Extra credit homework: review **Exodus 33; 8-9; Isaiah 28-29; Hosea**
- Thought to keep in mind: God never got off His path.

The rest of this lesson (Romans 9:14-29, repeated words, repeated topics, observations, applications, personalizations) will be reviewed in week 26.