

Wrestling with Romans  
Romans 9  
Discussion Guide, April 18, 2021

**CHECK UP:**

Memory Work Review: Thanks be to God, who delivers me through Jesus Christ our Lord! - Romans 7:25

- In what way did you battle in your flesh this past week?

**OPEN:**

- In what situation have you disagreed with someone on an interpretation of scripture?
  - o How should we approach a situation which two people have sound interpretations of the same text?
  - o The key word in the above question is "sound" interpretation. There are other situations in which someone intentionally twists scripture to make it mean what they want, how should we approach those situations?

*Romans 9-11 present texts that many scholars and students of scripture have different 'sound' interpretations. Begin your time by praying for humility as you come to the text, and for gentleness in the potential of disagreeing with other Christians.*

**READ and ASK: Romans 9**

- What does it communicate that Paul comes out of a great passage like Romans 8 crying? Why is Paul upset?
  - o How does that set a context for what follows?
  - o What implications does Paul's burden for Israel have for our lives today?
- According to this passage, who are the children of God?
  - o How could a person come from a very religious background and still not have a personal relationship with God?
  - o In what ways do people depend on religious background or heritage for favor with God?
- Looking at verses 15-18, on what is God's favor based? How has that been proclaimed throughout the first 8 chapters of Romans?
- How does Jeremiah 18:1-12 and 2 Timothy 2:20 shed light on verses 19-21?

- How might God's plan (chapters 1-8) might make the gentiles feel? The Jews?
- According to this passage, why are Jewish people often resistant to the message of peace with God through Jesus Christ?

**APPLY:**

- What is a particular person, group, or ethnicity in which you have a heart for? How can you use that burden in order to reach them?
  - o Do you hurt as deeply for unbelievers as Paul? Explain.
  - o What sacrifices would you be willing to make to give others a chance to know Christ?
- Where are you growing in your understanding of God's will for your life?
- In what way can you take time this week to thank God for His acts of mercy and love to you?
- NEXT STEP: What sacrifice or efforts can you make this week to help a friend come to faith in Christ?

Memory Work:

I have great sorrow and unceasing anguish in my heart. For I could wish that I myself were cursed and cut off from Christ for the sake of my people, those of my own race,

- Romans 9:2-3