

God is in Control

ROMANS 9

*Sunday April 12,
2026*

Romans 8 ended on such a high note.

No condemnation.

No separation from God's love.

Complete security in Christ.

- **If God is so faithful... what happened to Israel?**
- **And can we really trust God's promises?**

Part 1: PAUL'S HEART FOR THE LOST

(Romans 9:1–5)

I speak the truth in Christ—I am not lying, my conscience confirms it through the Holy Spirit— 2 I have great sorrow and unceasing anguish in my heart. 3 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, 4 the people of Israel. Theirs is the adoption to sonship; theirs the divine glory, the covenants, the receiving of the law, the temple worship and the promises. 5 Theirs are the patriarchs, and from them is traced the human ancestry of the Messiah, who is God over all, forever praised!

Amen.

He says he would be willing to be cut off

from Christ

if it meant they could be saved.

That's how much he loves them.

Theology is not just about ideas.

It's about people.

Part 2: GOD'S WORD HAS NOT FAILED

(Romans 9:6–13)

God's Sovereign Choice

6 It is not as though God's word had failed. For not all who are descended from Israel are Israel. 7 Nor because they are his descendants are they all Abraham's children. On the contrary, "It is through Isaac that your offspring will be reckoned." [b] 8 In other words, it is not the children by physical descent who are God's children, but it is the children of the promise who are regarded as Abraham's offspring. 9 For this was how the promise was stated: "At the appointed time I will return, and Sarah will have a son." [c] 10 Not only that, but Rebekah's children were conceived at the same time by our father Isaac. 11 Yet, before the twins were born or had done anything good or bad—in order that God's purpose in election might stand: 12 not by works but by him who calls—she was told, "The older will serve the younger." [d] 13 Just as it is written: "Jacob I loved, but Esau I hated." [e]

**God's promises have always been based on
His purpose, not human effort.**

**God is working out His purposes
according to His will.**

This doesn't mean God is unfair.

It means God is God.

Part 3: IS GOD UNFAIR?

(Romans 9:14–18)

14 What then shall we say? Is God unjust? **Not at all!** 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 It does not, therefore, depend on human desire or effort, but on God’s
mercy. 17 For Scripture says to Pharaoh: “I raised you up for this very purpose,
that I might display my power in you and that my name might be proclaimed in
all the earth.”[g] 18 Therefore God has mercy on whom he wants to have
mercy, and he hardens whom he wants to harden.

“Not at all!”

Mercy, by definition, is not something we deserve.

If God gave us what we deserved,

it wouldn't be mercy, it would be judgment.

Mercy is not owed.

It's given.

**Part 4: GOD IS THE POTTER, WE ARE THE
CLAY (Romans 9:19–24)**

19 One of you will say to me: “Then why does God still blame us? For who is able to resist his will?” 20 But who are you, a human being, to talk back to God? “Shall what is formed say to the one who formed it, ‘Why did you make me like this?’” 21 **Does not the potter have the right to make out of the same lump of clay some pottery for special purposes and some for common use?**

22 What if God, although choosing to show his wrath and make his power known, bore with great patience the objects of his wrath—prepared for destruction? 23 What if he did this to make the riches of his glory known to the objects of his mercy, whom he prepared in advance for glory— 24 even us, whom he also called, not only from the Jews but also from the Gentiles?

He says:

**“Does not the potter have the right to
make out of the same lump of clay some
pottery for special purposes and some
for common use?”**

God is the potter.

We are the clay.

The clay doesn't tell the artist what to become.

The artist forms it according to his design.

In the same way,

**God is shaping history according to His
purposes.**

Key Truth

**We are not in a position to judge
God.**

We don't see the full picture.

He does.

Part 5: GOD'S MERCY EXTENDS TO ALL

(Romans 9:25–33)

25 As he says in Hosea: “I will call them ‘my people’ who are not my people; and I will call her ‘my loved one’ who is not my loved one,” 26 and, “In the very place where it was said to them, ‘You are not my people,’ there they will be called ‘children of the living God.’” [j] 27 Isaiah cries out concerning Israel: “Though the number of the Israelites be like the sand by the sea, only the remnant will be saved. 28 For the Lord will carry out his sentence on earth with speed and finality.” 29 It is just as Isaiah said previously: “Unless the Lord Almighty had left us descendants, we would have become like Sodom, we would have been like Gomorrah.” [l]

Israel's Unbelief

30 What then shall we say? That the Gentiles, who did not pursue righteousness, have obtained it, a righteousness that is by faith; 31 but the people of Israel, who pursued the law as the way of righteousness, have not attained their goal. 32 Why not? Because they pursued it not by faith but as if it were by works. They stumbled over the stumbling stone. 33 As it is written: "See, I lay in Zion a stone that causes people to stumble and a rock that makes them fall, and the one who believes in him will never be put to shame."

Paul explains why many Israelites missed it.

Because they pursued righteousness by

works instead of by faith.

CONCLUSION:

Romans 9 reminds us of several important truths:

- God is sovereign.**
- God is just.**
- God's plans are bigger than we understand.**
- God's mercy is a gift, not something we earn.**





God is not asking you to understand everything.

He's asking you to trust Him.

Because even when you don't understand His ways,

you can trust His heart.