

Paul's letter to the church at Rome

Romans

Sunday, February 8th, 2009

Righteousness as the way Christians should live (6:1-8:39)

- 8:35-38...we cannot be separated from Christ
 - V.35 Greek for 'separate' is *kho-rid'-zo* meaning to put space between
 - Was used to describe divorce
 - Sometimes people think Christ will divorce them like their spouse did. We MUST see God as He is...Numbers 23:19, "*God is not a man, that he should lie; neither the son of man, that he should repent: hath he said, and shall he not do it? or hath he spoken, and shall he not make it good?*"
 - V.37 "Nay"...to the contrary, NOTHING shall separate us from the love of God

The plan of God for the Israelites and Gentiles (9:1-11:36)

- Chapters 9-11...remember that Paul is speaking to the Jews, so his language may be very blunt
- 9:1...Paul's triple oath shows he is very sensitive and strong with his thoughts about his fellow-Israelites
- 9:4-5...The Israelites possess all the heritage of God's covenant
- 9:6 is a key verse for chapters 9-11
 - Israel in the flesh is NOT the same as Israel in the faith
 - God's Word had not failed because the covenant with Abraham was not based on race, but rather on faith
 - Not everyone who "descended for Israel" are "Israel"
- 9:7-9...the true descendants of Abraham come from the covenant of faith (Isaac's birth)
 - Abraham had other earthly children (note Ishmael), but they were not the "chosen people" (Gen 21:12)
 - It is through Isaac that we are "God's children", because he was the child of promise. Therefore, we are children of God by faith, not by race (v.9)
- 9:10-13...the choice of Jacob over Esau was based on God's plan to build a Jewish nation (in the flesh)
 - Rebecca and Isaac had twins, but Jacob was selected by God based solely on God's sovereign will (Gen 25:21-23)
 - Esau "hated" (Mal 1:1-5): nation of Edom (Gen 36)
- 9:14-18...God's mercy is based on justice
 - "Is God Unjust. No!"
 - Moses (Ex. 33:12-19) and person of Pharaoh (Ex 9:13-19...27...33-35). God is NOT unfair to anyone, but He indeed sets the rules for how mercy will be granted.
- 9:19-22...God's sovereignty. On what authority do we question God's sovereignty?
- 9:22-24...God's control over vessels of wrath / mercy
 - Vessels of wrath: Esau and Pharaoh
 - Vessels of mercy: the Jewish nation and Gentiles
- 9:25-29...Gentiles have always been in God's plan
- 9:30-33...the conclusion of Paul's argument (started in v.6) that righteousness is gained by faith without regards to race
 - Is 8:14 and 28:16...the stone is either a stumbling-stone OR the sure foundation; it's the same today
 - Greek for 'attained' is *kat-al-am-ban'-o* meaning to seize or take possession
- 10:1-3...Israel's ignorance of God's righteousness
 - They were zealous for form and process, but missed God Himself
 - Their ignorance is seen in 1:17 and 2:4, and they did not "submit to God's righteousness"...continued ignorance
- 10:4...the law ends with Christ, and righteousness comes from faith in Him
- 10:5...:Lev 18:4,5...if you obey the law, you will live. But, who can do this??
- 10:6-13...righteousness comes from faith; believing that Jesus is LORD by His death, burial, and resurrection (the Gospel)
 - V.6-7...Paul is quoting liberally from Deut 30:11-14 (to v.20).Don't think that Jesus needs to come down from Heaven or that one needs to go into the abyss to confirm that Jesus isn't there in order to believe

- V.8...same as Deut 30:14. Paul is saying the same thing as Moses, but Paul is proclaiming righteousness through faith because the Law of Moses was fulfilled in Christ
- V.9-10...very famous scripture that describes the plan of salvation.T
 - he critical issue is who do you think Jesus is? To the Jews, He needs to become the LORD (e.g. God Himself). To the Gentiles, He needs to become the "true Emperor".
 - Confession is the proof of the heart's faith
- V.11-13...universal salvation to Jews and Gentiles alike (Is. 28:16, Joel 2:32)
- V.14-21...the Gospel will be accepted by some and rejected by others
 - The progression in V.14-15:
 - Preachers are sent by God
 - People listen to preachers delivering the Word of God
 - The Word of God brings knowledge
 - Knowledge brings faith
 - Faith results in salvation
 - V.16-21...many Israelites rejected Christ
 - They rejected what they heard
 - They had knowledge, but refused to believe
 - Note the contrast between 10:9,10 ("believing and confessing") with 10:21 ("disobedient and obstinate")