

May 24, 2026

**God's Good News Story: The Church Alive & Growing
Romans: For Today's World –Chapter 9,10**

***Remember and Respond:
Remembering God's Sovereign Love and
Responding To God's Gospel Call***

Paul's letter to the Romans, written around A.D. 57 while he was in the city of Corinth, Greece. It was written to a diverse group of Jewish and Gentile Christians in Rome, addresses the challenges of unity and faithfulness in a multicultural, often hostile environment. The Letter to the Romans centers on humanity's universal need for salvation, justification by faith in Jesus Christ, the transformative power of grace, emphasizes unity between Jewish and Gentile believers and the call to live by the Spirit. "*Romans For Today's World*" highlights how these foundational truths call the modern church to embrace grace, pursue righteousness, break down barriers of division, and embody Christlike love and service in a complex world. In other words, Romans is a life changing, purpose directing book that hopefully will bring a great effect upon us today in 2026.

Big Idea: Paul calls us to **Remember** God's sovereign and passionate love has chosen us to be His children (Rom.9) and then calls us to **Respond**—**first** by receiving salvation, and then **second**, by sharing the good news as His messengers (Rom.10).

I. Remember: (Romans 9)

Memorial Day Connection:

Memorial Day is a time set aside in our nation to remember and honor those who have given their lives in service to our country.

It's more than just the start of summer or a day for

family gatherings—it's a sacred moment to pause, reflect, and give thanks for the sacrifices made so that we might enjoy freedom. In a similar way, the Scriptures call us to be a people of remembrance—not just of national heroes, but also of the men and women of faith who, throughout the Bible, offered themselves in obedience and sacrifice for God's purposes.

From Abraham's willingness to trust God, to Moses' courage, to the prophets and apostles who gave everything for the sake of God's people, we remember their faithfulness as spiritual memorials.

Yet above all, we remember the greatest sacrifice—the memorial of Christ laying down His life for us on the cross. As we turn to Romans 9 and 10 today, we're reminded that God, in His mercy, chose a people for Himself—not because of their greatness, but because of His love and purpose. Just as we remember and honor those who have gone before us, we're called to remember God's faithfulness, the sacrifices of His people, and above all, the sacrifice of Christ. And in response, we are invited to offer ourselves as living sacrifices—lives marked by gratitude, obedience, and a willingness to share His love with the world.

1. Remember: God's Sovereign Choice:

When we look back at the story of Israel, we see a people chosen not because of their size, strength, or moral superiority, but simply because of God's love and sovereign purpose. **Romans 9:10-13** reminds us of this truth: ¹⁰ *This son was our ancestor Isaac.*

When he married Rebekah, she gave birth to twins. ¹¹ *But before they were born, before they had done anything good or bad, she received a message from God. (This message shows that God chooses people according to his own purposes; ¹² he calls people, but not according to their good or bad works.) She was told, "Your older son will serve your younger son."* ¹³ *In the words of the Scriptures, "I loved Jacob, but I rejected Esau."*

This echoes what God declared to Israel in **Deuteronomy 7:7-8**: *"The Lord did not set his affection on you and choose you because you were more numerous than other peoples, for you were the fewest of all peoples. But it was because the Lord loved you and kept the oath he swore to your ancestors"...* God's passionate choice is a memorial in itself—a reminder that His love is not earned but freely given. He has always been faithful to His promises, even when His people failed. Just as we remember the sacrifices of those who have gone before us, we are called to **Remember** the steadfast love of God, who has chosen us, not because of anything we have done, but because of His mercy and grace.

2. Remember: We Are God's Chosen Children:

Paul drives this point home in **Romans 9:15,16...**

¹⁵ *For God said to Moses, "I will show mercy to anyone I choose, and I will show compassion to anyone I choose."* ¹⁶ *So it is God who decides to show mercy. We can neither choose it nor work for it.*

Our identity as God's people is not something we achieve; it is something we receive. We are God's chosen children, set apart not by our own merit, but by His sovereign love. This truth should humble us and fill us with gratitude. We are not spiritual orphans, left to fend for ourselves. We are adopted, beloved, and secure in the family of God. Just as God called Israel to be a light to the nations, He calls us to live as His children—reflecting His character, His compassion, and His purpose in the world.

In a world that often measures worth by achievement or status, we remember that our worth is rooted in God's choice and Christ's sacrifice. We are His, and nothing can change that.

3. Application:

So, what does this mean for us today? It means that remembrance is not just a backward glance, it's a call to live differently in the present. Remember God's faithfulness and love in your own story. Take time this Memorial Day to reflect on the ways God has shown up in your life, the prayers He has answered, the doors He has opened, and the grace He has poured out.

As we honor the sacrifices of others, let us also honor the ultimate sacrifice of Christ, who laid down His life so we could be called children of God. And let us respond by offering ourselves as living sacrifices—lives marked by gratitude, obedience, and a willingness to share His love with the world. The privilege of being chosen by God comes with the responsibility to remember, to give thanks, and to live out our calling as His people.

II. Respond: God's Gospel Call (Romans 10)

1. Salvation Is for All Who Believe:

The heart of Romans 10 is the open invitation of the gospel. Paul writes,
... ⁹ *If you openly declare that Jesus is Lord and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved.* ¹⁰ *For it is by believing in your heart that you are made right with God, and it is by openly declaring your faith that you are saved.* ¹¹ *As the Scriptures tell us, "Anyone who trusts in him will never be disgraced."* ¹² *Jew and Gentile are the same in this respect. They have the same Lord, who gives generously to all who call on him.* ¹³ *For "Everyone who calls on the name of the LORD will be saved."*

This is the Good News we remember and celebrate: that God's love is not limited by background, status, or past mistakes.

The door is open wide. No one is beyond the reach of God's grace. Just as Memorial Day reminds us that freedom comes at a cost, Romans 10 reminds us that spiritual freedom is offered to all because of the ultimate cost paid by Christ. The invitation is clear: believe, confess, and receive the gift of salvation.

2. Respond: We Are God's Chosen Messengers

But the passage doesn't stop with our own salvation. **Romans 10:14-17**...¹⁴ *But how can they call on Him to save them unless they believe in Him? And how can they believe in Him if they have never heard about Him? And how can they hear about Him unless someone tells them?* ¹⁵ *And how will anyone go and tell them without being sent? That is why the Scriptures say, "How beautiful are the feet of messengers who bring Good News!"* ¹⁶ *But not everyone welcomes the Good News, for Isaiah the prophet said, "LORD, who has believed our message?"* ¹⁷ *So faith comes from hearing, that is, hearing the Good News about Christ*

Paul asks a series of piercing questions:

Romans 10:14...

But how can they call on Him to save them unless they believe in Him? And how can they believe in Him if they have never heard about Him? And how can they hear about Him unless someone tells them?

Then Paul makes a declaration in **Romans 10:15**

Romans 10:15... *“And how will anyone go and tell them without being sent? That is why the Scriptures say, “How beautiful are the feet of messengers who bring good news!”*

God’s plan is not just to save us, but to send us. We are not only *recipients* of grace, we are also to be *messengers* of grace. Just as God chose Israel to be a light to the nations, He chooses us to carry the message of Christ to a world in need. Our calling is not passive; it is active. We are God’s chosen messengers, entrusted with the privilege and responsibility of sharing the hope we have found.

Recipients: **First**, we must respond personally—by trusting Christ for salvation. This is not about religious ritual or family tradition; it’s about a personal decision to receive God’s gift, to confess Jesus as Lord, and to believe in His resurrection. If you have never made that decision, today is the day to respond to God’s call.

Messengers: We respond by sharing the gospel with others. The Good News is too good to keep to ourselves. We are called to be intentional—to look for opportunities to tell others about Jesus, to pray for those who don’t yet know Him, and to live in a way that points people to Christ.

Just as those we honor on Memorial Day gave their lives for a greater cause, we are called to give our lives to the mission of making Christ known.

Application:

So, let me ask you:

- Are you trusting in Christ alone for salvation?
- Have you responded to God’s invitation, or are you still standing at the threshold?
- If you have, then who is God calling you to share the good news with this week?
- Is there a friend, a neighbor, a coworker, or a family member who needs to hear about the hope you have in Christ?

Memorial Day reminds us of those who gave all so we could live in freedom. As followers of Jesus, let us honor their sacrifice by giving our lives to the greatest mission of all—making Christ known, remembering His love, and responding to His call with courage and conviction.

Conclusion: Today, as we pause to remember, let’s not just look back—let’s look within. Remember God’s sovereign love: He chose you, not because of your merit, not because of your record, not because you earned it, but because of His mercy. Before you ever reached for Him, He reached for you. Before you ever called His name, He called you His child. But remembrance alone is not enough. God’s love always calls for a response.

So, I ask you—have you responded to His gospel call?

Have you confessed with your mouth that Jesus is Lord?

Have you believed in your heart that God raised Him from the dead?

Today, the invitation is open. The door of grace is wide.

If you have never received Christ, let this be the day you step from remembering into responding.

Call on His name. Trust Him. He will save you.

And for those who know Him, the call does not end at salvation. You are not just chosen—you are sent.

You are God's messenger to a world desperate for hope. Who will you tell? Who will you pray for?

Who will hear the good news because you remembered and responded?

If you're here today and you sense God calling you to respond—to receive His love, to trust Christ for salvation, or to step out as His messenger—I invite you to come forward as we pray, or to reach out to someone after the service. Don't let this moment pass. The invitation is here. The time is now.

Remember and respond.

Let's answer God's call with our lives.

Remember His Sacrifice. Receive His love.

Respond to His call.

**Let us become Passionate Messengers Sharing
God's Good News Story!**

The Invitation is Here. The Time is Now.

Remember and Respond.

Romans 9...New Living Translation

¹With Christ as my witness, I speak with utter truthfulness. My conscience and the Holy Spirit confirm it. ²My heart is filled with bitter sorrow and unending grief ³for my people, my Jewish brothers and sisters. I would be willing to be forever cursed—cut off from Christ!—if that would save them. ⁴They are the people of Israel, chosen to be God's adopted children. God revealed his glory to them. He made covenants with them and gave them his law. He gave them the privilege of worshiping him and receiving his wonderful promises. ⁵Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob are their ancestors, and Christ himself was an Israelite as far as his human nature is concerned. And he is God, the one who rules over everything and is worthy of eternal praise! Amen. ⁶Well then, has God failed to fulfill his promise to Israel? No, for not all who are born into the nation of Israel are truly members of God's people! ⁷Being descendants of Abraham doesn't make them truly Abraham's children. For the Scriptures say, "Isaac is the son through whom your descendants will be counted," though Abraham had other children, too. ⁸This means that Abraham's physical descendants are not necessarily children of God. Only the children of the promise are considered to be Abraham's children. ⁹For God had promised, "I will return about this time next year, and Sarah will have a son." ¹⁰This son was our ancestor Isaac. When he married Rebekah, she gave birth to twins. ¹¹But before they were born, before they had done anything good or bad, she received a message from God. (This message shows that God chooses people according to his own purposes; ¹²he calls people, but not according to their good or bad works.) She was told, "Your older son will serve your younger son." ¹³In the words of the Scriptures, "I loved Jacob, but I rejected Esau." ¹⁴Are we saying, then, that God was unfair? Of course not! ¹⁵For God said to Moses, "I will show mercy to anyone I choose, and I will show compassion to anyone I choose."¹⁶ So it is God who decides to show mercy. We can neither choose it nor work for it. ¹⁷For the Scriptures say that God told Pharaoh, "I have appointed you for the very purpose of displaying my power in you and to spread my fame throughout the earth." ¹⁸So you see, God chooses to show mercy to some, and he chooses to harden the hearts of others so they refuse to listen. ¹⁹Well then, you might say, "Why does God blame people for not responding? Haven't they simply done what he makes them do?" ²⁰No, don't say that. Who are you, a mere human being, to argue with

God? Should the thing that was created say to the one who created it, “Why have you made me like this?”²¹ When a potter makes jars out of clay, doesn’t he have a right to use the same lump of clay to make one jar for decoration and another to throw garbage into?²² In the same way, even though God has the right to show his anger and his power, he is very patient with those on whom his anger falls, who are destined for destruction.²³ He does this to make the riches of his glory shine even brighter on those to whom he shows mercy, who were prepared in advance for glory.²⁴ And we are among those whom he selected, both from the Jews and from the Gentiles.²⁵ Concerning the Gentiles, God says in the prophecy of Hosea, “Those who were not my people, I will now call my people. And I will love those whom I did not love before.”²⁶ And, “Then, at the place where they were told, ‘You are not my people, there they will be called ‘children of the living God.’”²⁷ And concerning Israel, Isaiah the prophet cried out, “Though the people of Israel are as numerous as the sand of the seashore, only a remnant will be saved.²⁸ For the LORD will carry out his sentence upon the earth quickly and with finality.”²⁹ And Isaiah said the same thing in another place: “If the LORD of Heaven’s Armies had not spared a few of our children, we would have been wiped out like Sodom, destroyed like Gomorrah.”³⁰ What does all this mean? Even though the Gentiles were not trying to follow God’s standards, they were made right with God. And it was by faith that this took place.³¹ But the people of Israel, who tried so hard to get right with God by keeping the law, never succeeded.³² Why not? Because they were trying to get right with God by keeping the law instead of by trusting in him. They stumbled over the great rock in their path.³³ God warned them of this in the Scriptures when he said, “I am placing a stone in Jerusalem that makes people stumble, a rock that makes them fall. But anyone who trusts in him will never be disgraced.”

Romans 10 New Living Translation

¹ Dear brothers and sisters, the longing of my heart and my prayer to God is for the people of Israel to be saved. ² I know what enthusiasm they have for God, but it is misdirected zeal. ³ For they don’t understand God’s way of making people right with himself. Refusing to accept God’s way, they cling to their own way of getting right with God by trying to keep the law. ⁴ For Christ has already accomplished the purpose for which the law was given. As a result, all who believe in

him are made right with God.⁵ For Moses writes that the law’s way of making a person right with God requires obedience to all of its commands. ⁶ But faith’s way of getting right with God says, “Don’t say in your heart, ‘Who will go up to heaven?’ (to bring Christ down to earth). ⁷ And don’t say, ‘Who will go down to the place of the dead?’ (to bring Christ back to life again).”⁸ In fact, it says, “The message is very close at hand; it is on your lips and in your heart.” And that message is the very message about faith that we preach: ⁹ If you openly declare that Jesus is Lord and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved. ¹⁰ For it is by believing in your heart that you are made right with God, and it is by openly declaring your faith that you are saved. ¹¹ As the Scriptures tell us, “Anyone who trusts in him will never be disgraced.”¹² Jew and Gentile are the same in this respect. They have the same Lord, who gives generously to all who call on him. ¹³ For “Everyone who calls on the name of the LORD will be saved.”¹⁴ But how can they call on him to save them unless they believe in him? And how can they believe in him if they have never heard about him? And how can they hear about him unless someone tells them? ¹⁵ And how will anyone go and tell them without being sent? That is why the Scriptures say, “How beautiful are the feet of messengers who bring good news!”¹⁶ But not everyone welcomes the Good News, for Isaiah the prophet said, “LORD, who has believed our message?”¹⁷ So faith comes from hearing, that is, hearing the Good News about Christ. ¹⁸ But I ask, have the people of Israel actually heard the message? Yes, they have: “The message has gone throughout the earth, and the words to all the world.”¹⁹ But I ask, did the people of Israel really understand? Yes, they did, for even in the time of Moses, God said, “I will rouse your jealousy through people who are not even a nation. I will provoke your anger through the foolish Gentiles.”²⁰ And later Isaiah spoke boldly for God, saying, “I was found by people who were not looking for me. I showed myself to those who were not asking for me.”²¹ But regarding Israel, God said, “All day long I opened my arms to them, but they were disobedient and rebellious.”

New Living Translation (NLT)

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