

Home Group Discussion Questions

30th April 2017

Romans 9:1-29

In Chapters 9-11 Paul wrestles with a central question which his exposition of the Gospel has raised – namely, if God is so faithful and righteous then why hasn't his covenant and promise to Israel been fulfilled more visibly? It is the Gentiles in large measure who were responding to the Gospel. These chapters are not an excursus but critical to his letter.

1. Looking at the chapter as a whole what are some of the *overall features* of this passage which strike you as significant?
2. Paul begins in v.1-5 in a very personal way (this he also does at the beginning of chapters 10 and 11). What is the real cause of his pain?
3. Are Gentiles meant to share that passion for the future of the Jewish People and if so how can it be expressed?
4. Paul's chief concern is the question: 'Because Israel has not accepted the Messiah does that not imply that God's word has failed (v.6)'? What is the central point Paul makes in response in v.6b-13?
5. Paul imagines a conversation partner responding, "Well if God chooses 'an Israel within Israel' isn't that God being unjust"? Paul's first answer is to emphasise that divine justice would actually mean that none of us deserve his kindness (see v.29). Neither his mercy nor his judgement therefore compromises God. What is the significance of the quote from Moses? (Exodus 33:19 note in particular its wider context: Exodus 32)
6. Again Paul anticipates another objection (v.19): 'If God's will is paramount then how can we be responsible if we reject him'? What is Paul's first response in v.20-21? In what ways do we tend to not really accept God as God?
7. Another part of Paul's response is that even within his mercy and wrath there is room for our response. How is that room created?
8. In v.25 -29 there are two sets of quotes from both Hosea and Isaiah. What is the point Paul wishes to draw out from each pair?
9. This whole section is about having a *passion for God's people* and *confidence in God's character*. In what ways should these things be being expressed in our own lives?