The Epistle of Paul to the ROMANS

"The Constitution of the Christian Faith"

** A study in Doctrine**

** A study in Practice**

Background: This letter, inspired by the Holy Spirit, was written by the Apostle Paul to the "saints" at Rome around 56-58 A.D., while Paul was in Corinth on his 3rd missionary journey.

Purpose: This letter is written to instruct believers in 3 general areas:

- 1. The fundamental doctrines of salvation to strengthen against false doctrine.
- 2. God's faithfulness in His relationship and dealings with Israel.
- 3. Practical Christian living in relation to society and government.

About Paul: Background: Philippians 3:4-6 (a Pharisee)

Salvation experience - Acts 9:1-22 (Saul=Paul)

Ministry training - Acts 22:1-4; 2 Corinthians 12:1-8; Galatians 1:15-19

Qualification for apostleship - called by Christ - Acts 9:3-6

Chapter Nine: The Election Of Israel To Be God's People

I. Paul's Passion For His Fellow Israelites:

- A. He wanted to wish that, if it were possible, that he could give his gift of eternal life to them, and suffer God's wrath in their place. It *was* possible for Christ to do this... and He did! (for them and for us).
- vv4,5 B. He describes the blessings allotted to God's chosen ones (even though they rejected these blessings):
 - 1. The adoption (sonship) pertained to *them*.
 - 2. The glory (dignity & honor) pertained to *them*.
 - 3. The covenants (Abrahamic, Davidic, New) pertained to them.

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- 4. The giving (dispensing) of the law pertained to *them*.
- 5. The service of God (ministry of worship) pertained to *them*.
- 6. The promises (future blessings) pertained to *them*.
- 7. The ancestry (heritage of godly example) pertained to *them*.
- 8. The privilege of being the vehicle through which the Messiah would come into the world pertained to *them*.
- C. They are not all (spiritual) Israel who are of (physical) Israel (Jacob).
- v6 1. Not because the Word of God has not been effective.
- v7 2. Not true children of God because of their kinship to Abraham.
- v8 3. Only children of the promise (those who believe by faith in the promise of God according to His Word) are the true children of God.
- v9 4. Isaac was the son of promise (Abraham believed God, and it was counted to him for righteousness). Rom 4:3; Gen 15:6
- v12 5. Jacob (Israel) was the son of promise. Gen 25:23

II. God's Passion For Israel:

v18

- vv10-13 A. God has chosen to love Israel, and bless them. Gen 25:19-34; Mal 1:2,3
 - 1. It is His sovereign right to choose to love whom He wills.
 - 2. God is not unrighteous. 1 John 1:5
- v15 B. God chooses to be merciful to whom He wills. Exodus 32:25-35; 33:12-23; 34:1-10.
 - 1. God would be perfectly righteous if He chose to be merciful to no-one.
 - 2. All men are deserving of nothing except eternal separation from God. Rom 3:10-19, Isa 53:6; (blotted out of the book of the living Ps 69:28).
- v15,16 3. Man's response to the mercy of God (as revealed by the preaching of the Word) is the vehicle to salvation. Rom 10:9,10,13,17. Titus 3:5
- v17 4. The example of Pharaoh: Exodus 8:15,32; 9:16,34; 10:1
 - 5. As the same sun's heat has a different affect on two different elements (the heat melts the snow, yet hardens the clay), so God's Word has a similar affect on different types of hearts. 2 Cor 2:14-16

The condition of a person's heart at any given time is dependent on many factors, such as :

- a. Character and type of personality from birth. Ps 139:13-16
- b. Life experiences, family, parental nurturing.
- c. Present circumstances.
- d. God's supernatural intervention (usually invoked by prayer) Matt 9:35-38, 1 Tim 2:1-8, Ps 145:18-20, Luke 6:28, 22:32,
- v19 C. If God has absolute control, then how can He find fault in man?
 - 1. Man has no right to question God's plan or methods.
 - 2. Man does not have the wisdom to fully understand God's plan. Rom 11:32-36
 - 3. The creation is totally subject to the will of the creator.
 - 4. The creation would not even exist, if not for the will of the creator.
- v23 5. The purpose is to show the riches of His glory on the vessels of mercy.
- v25-29 D. God's will shall be accomplished, and His kingdom shall be established.
 - 1. Unbelieving Israel will believe. God will lift the blindness. Rom 11:25-27
 - 2. Unfaithful Israel will be faithful. God will love and forgive. Hos 2:23
 - 3. God will finish His work.
 - 4. A remnant will be saved. Isa 10:20-23

III. God's Passion For All Nations.

- A. That all would come to Him by faith.
 - 1. The Gentiles, who believe by faith, have been made the children of God. Acts 28:25-29; Isaiah 11:10, 42:6, 49:6,22
 - 2. The Jews, who try to keep the law, have not been reconciled to God because they are trusting in their own efforts to make themselves sons of God.
 - 3. "Whoever" believes on the "Rock" shall not be put to shame. (disgraced) Stumbling Stone = "occasion of apostasy" "to trip up"
- B. "For God so loved the world, that He gave His only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in Him should not perish, but have everlasting life" John 3:16
- C. "The Lord is not slack concerning His promise, as some men count slackness; but is longsuffering to us-ward, not willing that any should perish, but that all should come to repentance". 2 Peter 3:9