

**THE GOSPEL OF GRACE**  
**A Study in the Book of Romans**

**God's Sovereign Choice**

**Romans 9:1–29**

*“Therefore, God has mercy on whom he wants to have mercy, and he hardens whom he wants to harden.”*  
Romans 9:18

**Read Romans 9:1–5.**

1. It could be said that Paul is “wearing his heart on his sleeve” at the beginning of this chapter. Describe the scope and intensity of his feelings as revealed in verses 1–3.
2. List the blessings and rich heritage the Jews enjoyed as related by Paul in verses 4–5.
3. In his letters, Paul often calls Jesus Christ “Lord,” but what truth does he declare about him in verse 5? (Some translations may read differently. See your text notes.)
4. How does Paul’s concern for his kinsmen (v. 3) compare with your concern for the lost—especially those you know and love? Take a moment to pray that your heart would be like Paul’s, and pray for those you know who do not know the Lord.

**Read Romans 9:6–13.**

5. How does Paul prove that God’s word had not failed? (v. 6; Rom. 2:28–29)
6. In verses 7–9, Paul makes a distinction between Abraham’s descendants and his children (or offspring). Who is considered his “descendant”? (Gen. 16:15)

In contrast, who is the child of promise? (Gen. 21:1-3) (📖 Gen. 17:17-21)

7. In contrast to Isaac and Ishmael who had the same father but different mothers, Jacob and Esau were twins. What does Paul say accounts for God viewing Jacob one way and Esau another? (v. 11)

What does Paul say explicitly is **not** the reason for God’s choice? (v. 12)

**Read Romans 9:14–18.**

8. Bearing in mind our study of Romans so far and verses like Isaiah 64:6 and Romans 3:23 in particular, why does it make sense for Paul to ask a question about God’s justice (v. 14) and respond by speaking of his mercy (v. 15)?
  
9. Rewrite verse 16 in your own words.
  
10. What reasons does Paul give for the way God worked in Pharaoh? (v. 17)

**Read Romans 9:19–29.**

11. Summarize the four points Paul makes in response to the questions in verse 19, “...why does God still blame us?...who is able to resist His will?”
  - a. vv. 20–21:
  
  - b. vv. 22–24:
  
  - c. vv. 25–26:
  
  - d. vv. 27–29:
  
12. In verses 22–24, Paul poses two possible motives for God’s actions. What are these motives and what do they reveal about God?
  
13. Why do you think Paul mentions that the Gentiles’ inclusion in salvation was prophesied in the Old Testament?
  
14. As you review this passage, what impresses you about who God is or how he works?