

# ROMANS: TRANSFORMED BY GRACE

(Romans 9:6-13)

At 16, strict rules (curfew, chores, where you could drive & w/whom, *IF* you could solo date etc) -At 18, rules change. Why? situation has changed. Older/wiser/more experienced =more responsibility =greater risk  
-As the parent, it is your right to decide when, how or *IF* the rules change. =Child's resp. is to love/obey/grow

Theme of Romans: God's **Righteousness**: How to be in right standing/relationship w/Holy God!

Theme of Chs. 9-11: **God's sovereign faithfulness in His redemptive purposes first to the Jews and now to the Gentiles too**: Rom. 1:16 "Not ashamed of the gospel for it is the power of God to save to the Jew first, then the Gentile"

Paul is making an argument to the Jews that even though they have been the Covenant people of God, that they have always been saved individually by **Faith** in the One true Covenant God and through belief in the coming Messiah. \*Now that Messiah has come & requires belief in HIM!

-Paul is here distinguishing between Ethnic/National Israel & Faithful/spiritual Jewish individ.  
=2 "Israels" – but, only ONE spiritual People, God's children of the promise through FAITH/Belief/Trust=Right Relationship w/ God

\*Romans 9:6-13 (are all the Jews condemned b/c they reject Jesus? No, some have believed...)

-So if God has revealed NEW info. (Prog. Rev.), then who are the real Jews now to God? *Cov. Jews?*

<sup>6</sup> But it is not as though the word of God has failed [i.e. God's plan for His chosen people -Jews still exist today]. For they are not all Israel who are descended from Israel; [i.e. just because you are Jewish ethnically, doesn't mean you are spiritually Jewish/Covenantally Jewish in God's eyes now] <sup>7</sup> nor are they all children because they are Abraham's descendants, but: "through Isaac your descendants shall be named." <sup>8</sup> That is, it is not the children of the flesh who are children of God, [physically Jewish] but the children of the promise are regarded as descendants. <sup>9</sup> For this is the word of promise: "At this time I will come, and Sarah will have a son." <sup>10</sup> And not only that, but there was also Rebekah, when she had conceived twins by one man, our father Isaac; <sup>11</sup> for though the twins were not yet born and had not done anything good or bad, so that God's purpose according to His choice would stand [remain], not because of works but because of Him who calls, <sup>12</sup> it was said to her, "The older will serve the younger." <sup>13</sup> Just as it is written: "Jacob I have loved, but Esau I have hated [rejected]."

## 4 Observations from this text:

1. God as a Sovereign God, He is sovereign over nations, peoples, and individual lives; He has the complete right (as Sovereign) to **choose**/elect/and adopt whom He wants for His own **glory** and purposes (=we cannot call God unjust or unfair for His choice of a nation, people, or an individual and His rejection of, passing over, or reprobation of another).

-Dt. 7:6-11 (last week) God chose Israel b/c He loved them. B/c He wanted to =His Glory!

-Paul illustrates God's sovereign choice to elect through the analogy of Esau (older) serv. **Vs. 11**: for though the twins [Jacob/Esau] were not yet born and had not done anything good or bad, so that God's purpose according to His choice would stand [remain], not because of works but because of Him who calls; <sup>12</sup> it was said to her, "The older will serve the younger." <sup>13</sup> Just as it is written: "Jacob I have loved, but Esau I have hated [rejected]."

-Paul emph. =Not about us/works BUT God "who calls"

-If I pay for two dogs from a breeder- I have the right to make one Hunting dog/domestic pet  
=as the rightful owner, I have the right to make that choice: Not unfair/unjust =my purpose!

-As a Parent, you have the right to SAY NO to your child fork/plug; running w/ scissors/traffic

(B/c I know better than my 3 yr old; for his own good, protection/provision=I say NO now...)

**God, as Creator and as a loving, but Sovereign Father, is in control of the universe:**

-Unconditionally and completely apart from any consideration of human merit, God elects those who will become heirs of promise. Then (Jewish Nation/Indiv. thru Faith); Today/Jesus

**Applic.** – Each of us have to come to terms with the universal reality that God is in control of everything; His providence means He oversees every part of the world & your own life.

-The sooner you yield “control”/your rights to God, the sooner you’ll find peace/Joy in Him

2. God as sovereign has the complete right to change the program or **process** of **how** He is working in those elect nations, peoples, and individual lives to bring about **His glory** and **redemption of souls**. I.e. In O.T., Jews were saved (“reckoned righteous” by their individual FAITH in the One true God and His promised Messiah to come) **-but**, when Jesus came to earth as the Son of God – He was revealed to be the expected Messiah.

-Jews then had a choice: to accept/reject Jesus as their Messiah. They rejected/crucified Him

\*BUT, NOW, **only through Jesus that one can be saved by FAITH**: (Acts 4:12; John 14:6)

-Rom. 3:28-30 For we maintain that a person is justified [SAVED] by faith apart from works of the Law. <sup>29</sup> Or is God *the God* of Jews only? Is He not *the God* of Gentiles also? Yes, of Gentiles also, <sup>30</sup> since indeed God who will justify the circumcised *by faith* and the uncircumcised *through faith* is one.

A. So, God’s salvific program/process by which people were saved in O.T. changed w/Jesus

B. Going forward JESUS changes everything: New Trajectory for Israel. Jews. ALL will be

measured by “**what they do with Jesus.**” At first, they killed Jesus. But afterwards, & **NOW?**

C. As the Jews were God’s Covenant People in OT, now God has opened that Covenant relationship to any/all connected through Jesus as Savior/Lord=GENTILES too (us). **Galatians**

**-APPL. What have YOU done w/Jesus? Ignore? Or Lord??**

3. Jewishness was not *the* main factor of one’s salvation in the OT, but being rightly related to God spiritually (through Faith) was how salvation was bestowed.

For OT Jewish people: Salvation was never in Circumcision; not in keeping the Law/perfectly, not in keeping Jewish religious ceremony or keeping Jewish traditions or feasts; faithful to Torah; not in just “being” Jewish - a true/phys. descendant of Abraham; Not in converting to Judaism. Salvation was individual/not nationally. = **Came thru indiv. FAITH (spiritual)**

**-Abraham, “Father of Judaism”** - His belief/faith/trust in God=salvation & **pre-dates Judaism.**

-Rom. 4:2 “Ab. believed God & it was credited to him as righteousness”

-Rom4:5 “to the one who does not work but trusts God who justifies the ungodly, their faith is credited as **righteousness**” -Paul gives the illustration so that every Jewish reader would understand.

**Vs. 7:** nor are they all children because they are Abraham’s descendants, but: “through Isaac your descendants shall be named.” <sup>8</sup> That is, it is not the children of the flesh who

are children of God, [physically Jewish] but the children of the promise are regarded as descendants. = **Abraham had eight children in his life/old age. (Hagar-Ishmael); (Sarah-**

**Isaac); (Keturah -Zimran; Jokshan; Meda; Midian; Ishbak; Shuah)** All eight sons were born from Abraham, he was their rightful father – but the Promise of God’s blessing was only for **Isaac**, the son of the promise. The Covenant promise of God for was specifically for Isaac

and his descendants (as they continued to be in right relationship with their Covenant God).

-Just because Ab. other seven sons had Ab. as their father, did not mean they had the right to inherit His estate, and the Covenant blessing of God. Ab. loved them, but they **did not inherit**

-In the same way, God calls **all** Jews to be in right relationship w/Him through the promised Jewish Messiah, Jesus of Nazareth! Salvation is by FAITH **IN** Jesus as Savior & Lord. =**Forever**

**APPL.** The Promise of salvation & blessing of inheriting eternal life ONLY come through a relationship w/ Jesus as God's Covenant Messiah. (Then and NOW). Jew & Gentile!

4. Ethnic Israel or National Israel or Political Israel (country today) is to be distinguished from Spiritual "Israel" those who follow Jesus as Savior (Messianic/completed Jews).
- Paul alludes to "two" types of Israel (Ethnic) and (Spiritual)
  - God has and will only have 1 People – a Covenant people united to Him through Faith in Him as Sovereign God, and now through His Son Jesus as Savior & Lord of the world.

**APPL.** As Christians today, we would do a disservice to Israel by thinking and treating the Jewish nation that they are right with God simply b/c they are Israeli or have Jewish heritage (**This is NOT Anti-semitic talk**). Israel is a secular country. ONLY 13% Rel. orthodox.

-I do think Ethnic Israel has a right to be back in the Land of Palestine

-If I am going to err, I would rather be on side of Israel: Gen 12:3 "**I will bless those who...**

-So what does that mean for the rest of the world and the hard-hearted Jewish people w/o Jesus

=No Jew is going to heaven without a saving Faith rel. w/ Jesus the Messiah. (Jn 14:6; Acts 4:12)

- No Jewish person gets a spiritual pass just b/c they are Jewish AND...

=NO Gentile is going to heaven w/out a saving faith relationship Jesus Christ as Savior/Lord!

\*So the Jewish readers of this letter to the Romans have a decision to make about accepting Jesus as Savior or Not. As Gentiles, today, SO DO WE!

\*What have you decided about Jesus?