**The Gospel in Romans (8): God’s sovereignty in election**

Romans 9

**Review of the previous lessons:**

* Paul wants to present the good news to the Roman church (1:1-17)
* Paul presents the bad news that all humanity has sinned against God, and are facing the wrath/judgment of God (1:18-3:20)
* Paul presents the gospel in which the saving righteousness of God is revealed. All people are justified before God by God’s grace and through faith alone (not by work).
* Paul explores the implications of the gospel that the life of a Christian justified through faith is a life with utter security and hope. Grace of God through Christ triumphs over Adam’s sin.
* Paul argues that we are saved by grace unto obedience apart from the law, and thus can no longer live under sin.
* Paul comforts the believers that our lives are spirit led, thus completely secured in the love of God.

**Questions that may arise that Paul deals within chapter 9:**

If nothing can separate us from the love of God (chapter 8), then how can this gospel separate Israel – God’s chosen – from his love? If God chose Israel to be his special people, how can God reject his own chosen people now? how can those who are not part of Israel share in the promises God made to Israel? Was God unfaithful or unjust toward Israel?

**Outline of the chapter**

Paul’s sorrow for his own people who have such privilege (1-5)

God’s sovereign choice (6-29)

* God’s word has not failed, not all descended from Israel are Israel. (Abraham：Gen 15:4, 17:6-7, 21:12)

(Jacob: Gen 25:23, Mal 1:2-3)

* God is not unjust, He will have mercy on whom he has mercy.

(Moses: Exo 33:19, 9:16)

* God does not have to answer our argument, He is sovereign.
* God shows his wrath so his mercy can be known to the chosen.

Israel’s unbelief (30-33)

* Israel seek righteousness through the law and work but didn’t attain it, the gentiles obtained the righteousness through faith.

**Central message of the chapter: Paul draws on the Old Testament narrative to show that God sovereignly chooses, by his own good pleasure and ultimately for his own glory, those who will believe in him.**

**Life questions we should be able to answer from this chapter.**

Why do God show mercy to his chosen people?

What is God’s purpose in his sovereign acting according to verse 17?

How does Paul’s sorrow in verses 1-3 relate to Christ? Can we relate?

Describe the tension between God’s sovereign grace and human response(free will) in regard to salvation.