

ROMANS

THE MYSTERY OF
RIGHTEOUSNESS



SERMON APPLICATION GUIDE

BELIEVING IN GOD'S PROMISES DESPITE ISRAEL'S UNBELIEF

ROMANS 9:1-13

MAR. 8, 2015

TAKEAWAYS

Write out your one-sentence takeaways. Consider writing these on a notecard and putting it on your mirror, desk, or car dashboard.

What to remember:

What to put off/put on:

What to share with someone:

NEXT STEPS

Here are some next steps to walk in this truth this week. Don't feel constrained to these but feel free to use them.

- Memorize Rom. 11:33-36 as we study Rom. 9-11.
- Read through Romans 1-8 this week and meditate on who God is and how he has acted on your behalf.
- Follow Paul's example by praying in compassion for the people in your life who still live in unbelief.
- Think about whether your hope is in the privileges surrounding you (like Israel in 9:4-5) or the promises of God you've believed.

HOW TO PRAY

Pray over the praises and requests of those around you but here are some additional ways to pray into our passage this week.

- Praise God for his reliability, faithfulness, and trustworthiness.
- Thank God that all his promises are kept and purposes fulfilled.
- Ask God to give you an open heart to submit to and understand him, his Word, and his ways.
- Pray that you would have compassion and care for the lost that Paul demonstrates.
- Thank God for the comfort and rest knowing your salvation depends on God's steadfast purposes and not your works.
- Pray that God would maintain a spirit of unity in diversity as we wrestle through Romans 9-11.

APPLICATION AND DISCUSSION

These questions focus on the sermon text and message. We've highlighted key ones but use however many your group needs.

Review: How would you summarize the message of Romans so far (chapter 1-8)?

- 1. From Romans 1-8, what are some things we've learned about God's character? (Rom. 1:16-17; 2:4; 3:21-26; 5:5; 8:15-16; 28)**
- 2. In 9:4-5 we see the great pedigree and privileges of being a Jew and yet their unbelief. What are some dangers of relying upon being in a church, a small group, or having good family or friends? How can those good things deceive us?**
3. Paul's "great sorrow and anguish" in heart (9:2) is because his fellow Jews have rejected Jesus in unbelief (cf. 3:3). What do you think this says about "human responsibility" for unbelief in the midst of a text on election? Do we grieve for the lost like Paul did?
4. How should we respond when some things in the Bible are hard for us to understand how they can be good (cf. Rom. 11:33-36)? Why can we trust the character of God?
5. Rom. 9:6 and Rom. 9-11 as a whole demonstrate why God's promises for us in Rom. 5-8 will be kept and why His purposes are never thwarted. Why is it important to know that God is reliable, trustworthy, and that His promises and purposes never fail?
6. How does the logic of Rom. 8:28-30 parallel 9:6-13? Why is their rest in knowing our growth and glorification rest ultimately in God's unwavering purposes and not our works and effort?
- 7. In his closing applications, Pastor Mark mentioned that the doctrine of election is both comforting and humbling. In what ways might it comfort you and in what ways does it humble you so that you boast in no one but God?**

FOR FURTHER STUDY

For those wanting to study some of the key ideas in more detail here are some cross-references and resources.

- **A "true Jew:"** Rom. 2:28-29; 4:11-12; Gal. 3:7-9, 25-29; 4:23-28.
- **Electing Purposes:** Rom. 8:28; Eph. 1:4-6, 11; 3:11; 2 Tim. 1:9.
- Consider reading a book such as *Evangelism and the Sovereignty of God* by J.I. Packer; *Putting Amazing Back into Grace* by Michael Horton; or *Proof* by Daniel Montgomery and Timothy Paul Jones.
- Meditate on the rich lyrics of "Come Thou Fount."