

**Title:** God's Word Doesn't Fail

**Passage:** Romans 9:1-13

---

Summary:

I. Unceasing anguish (v.1-3)

II. Privileges list (v.4-5)

Key Truths:

- Paul expresses a heart of anguish for those who do not know Jesus - who are perishing without Him.
- Prayer: Lord, help me to believe in Your Word that those who do not believe will perish in hell. May my heart also anguish for the lost.
- One cannot be saved unless one individually has been born again (conviction of sins, repent and turn to Jesus).
- We must not trust in anything other than Jesus for salvation. Having Christian parents or even church membership and service is not to be trusted for salvation (they are the fruit/outflow of salvation but not the basis of salvation)

Possible Discussion Questions:

- What point(s) in the sermon did the Lord most impress upon you?
- Is God faithful to His promises? How so? How has that been true in your life?
- Do you have a heart of anguish for those who are perishing without Jesus? Why or why not?
- How are we tempted to take pride or security in our human history or material things rather than Jesus? How do those compare to Jesus?
- What sacrifices or efforts can you make this week to help someone come to faith in Jesus Christ?
- What next steps will you take in response to the truths you have been exposed to?

---

**Passage:**

Romans 9:1-13

I am speaking the truth in Christ—I am not lying; my conscience bears me witness in the Holy Spirit—that I have great sorrow and unceasing anguish in my heart. For I could wish that I myself were accursed and cut off from Christ for the sake of my brothers, my kinsmen according to the flesh. They are Israelites, and to them belong the adoption, the glory, the covenants, the giving of the law, the worship, and the promises. To them belong the patriarchs, and from their race, according to the flesh, is the Christ, who is God over all, blessed forever. Amen.

**EXPOSITION**

**Introduction**

## Romans chapter 9

- How does this fit within the context of Romans?

Prior passage:

### Romans 8:37-39

No, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him who loved us. For I am sure that neither death nor life, nor angels nor rulers, nor things present nor things to come, nor powers, nor height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.

General Observations:

- Passage among the least popular as dives into the doctrine of election.
- But keep in mind:

### Isaiah 55:8-9

For my thoughts are not your thoughts,  
neither are your ways my ways, declares the LORD.  
For as the heavens are higher than the earth,  
so are my ways higher than your ways  
and my thoughts than your thoughts.

Prior passage:

### Romans 8:30

And those whom he predestined he also called, and those whom he called he also justified, and those whom he justified he also glorified.

- Someone may question in response:
  - What about the Jews?
    - God called them but most Jews have rejected Christ.
      - Does that mean God's calling can be rejected?
      - Does the God who gave this saving promise to Israel faithful to His pledges?
        - questions God's righteousness and faithfulness.

### **Theme Verse of Romans 9-11:**

#### Romans 9:6a

But it is not as though the word of God has failed.  
How?

- 3 main arguments.

- God's promises are consistent with what He is doing in saving only some and not all (Romans 9:6-13)
- God's is actually even now fulfilling His promises by saving some Jews (Romans 11:1-10)
- All of Israel will be saved (Romans 11:32)

## Overview

I. Unceasing anguish (v.1-3)

II. Privileges list (v.4-5)

## I. UNCEASING ANGUISH

### Romans 9:1-3

***I am speaking the truth in Christ—I am not lying; my conscience bears me witness in the Holy Spirit— that I have great sorrow and unceasing anguish in my heart. For I could wish that I myself were accursed and cut off from Christ for the sake of my brothers, my kinsmen according to the flesh.***

*I am speaking the truth in Christ—I am not lying; my conscience bears me witness in the Holy Spirit— that I have great sorrow and unceasing anguish in my heart.*

- see the heart of Paul (and Jesus)
  - Sharing of the Gospel is not out of pride but rather out of heartfelt love for the lost.

*For I could wish that I myself were accursed and cut off from Christ for the sake of my brothers, my kinsmen according to the flesh.*

- Paul is speaking hypothetical only.
  - One can never lose one's salvation.
- Remarkable statements given the Jews' hatred of Paul.

### 2 Corinthians 11:24-25

Five times I received at the hands of the Jews the forty lashes less one. Three times I was beaten with rods. Once I was stoned. Three times I was shipwrecked; a night and a day I was adrift at sea;

- also see similarly Jesus' heart for the Jews.

### Luke 19:41-44 (Jesus Weeps over Jerusalem)

And when he drew near and saw the city, he wept over it, saying, "Would that you, even you, had known on this day the things that make for peace! But now they are hidden from your eyes. For the days will come upon you, when your enemies will set up a barricade

around you and surround you and hem you in on every side and tear you down to the ground, you and your children within you. And they will not leave one stone upon another in you, because you did not know the time of your visitation.”

### **Application:**

- Do we have the similar heart of anguish for those who do not know Jesus - who are perishing without Him?
  - Maybe we don't believe in the Word of God (that those who do not believe will perish in hell)?
- Prayer: Help us to believe Your Word more and share the Gospel more.
  - We do not know who God has chosen
  - But we are called to be faithful and share Jesus to others.
  
- Do we anguish over those who are enemies?
  - Paul's sorrow was for his enemies.
  - Jesus, even on the cross, prayed for their forgiveness.

Luke 23:34

And Jesus said, “Father, forgive them, for they know not what they do.” And they cast lots to divide his garments.

## **II. PRIVILEGES LIST**

**Romans 9:4-5**

***They are Israelites, and to them belong the adoption, the glory, the covenants, the giving of the law, the worship, and the promises. To them belong the patriarchs, and from their race, according to the flesh, is the Christ, who is God over all, blessed forever. Amen.***

Lists out Israel's privileges:

### **A. Adoption**

Exodus 4:22

Then you shall say to Pharaoh, ‘Thus says the LORD, Israel is my firstborn son,

Hosea 11:1

When Israel was a child, I loved him, and out of Egypt I called my son.

### **B. Glory**

- likely meaning = visible symbol of the presence of God
  - took the form of various ways
    - Cloud by day, fire by night (Exodus in desert)

- Dark cloud (Mount Sinai)
- Fire (times of Elijah)

### **C. Covenants**

- God making promises for the patriarchs of Israel.

### **D. Giving of the Law**

- God's law was given to Israel.

### **E. Worship**

- extensive set of regulations given in worship of God in the temple (How we are to worship God)
  - The key sacrifice for individuals was a lamb
    - Pointed to Jesus (the Lamb of God)

### **F. Promises**

- refers to newer Old Testament promises of the coming of a Messiah.

### **G. Patriarchs**

- Includes Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob as well as Moses and David.
  - Pointed to Someone Greater

### **H. Ancestry of Christ**

- Jesus was Jewish
  - Allowed them to relate to Jesus, the Son of God.

Paul's testimony:

Philippians 3:4-6

though I myself have reason for confidence in the flesh also. If anyone else thinks he has reason for confidence in the flesh, I have more: circumcised on the eighth day, of the

people of Israel, of the tribe of Benjamin, a Hebrew of Hebrews; as to the law, a Pharisee; as to zeal, a persecutor of the church; as to righteousness under the law, blameless.

- Paul outlined all his humanly privileges

#### Philippians 3:7-9

But whatever gain I had, I counted as loss for the sake of Christ. Indeed, I count everything as loss because of the surpassing worth of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord. For his sake I have suffered the loss of all things and count them as rubbish, in order that I may gain Christ and be found in him, not having a righteousness of my own that comes from the law, but that which comes through faith in Christ, the righteousness from God that depends on faith—

- Yet counted all of his privileges as “loss”
  - “Loss” = refuse
    - Great contrast compared to the treasure of Jesus.
- One cannot put their faith in humanly attributes (ex: family heritage / Christian parents, past history of service, good behavior).

#### **APPLICATION**

I. One cannot be saved unless one individually has been born again

- Must have conviction of sins, repent and turn to Jesus.
- Not trust in:
  - Having Christian parents
    - Advantage of being informed but not salvation itself.
  - Membership and service in church
    - Fruit of salvation but not basis of salvation

II. Give God glory and praise for salvation in Jesus