

Praying Romans 9

Release Date: September 2, 2019

Romans 9 (ESV)

1 I am speaking the truth in Christ—I am not lying; my conscience bears me witness in the Holy Spirit— **2** that I have great sorrow and unceasing anguish in my heart. **3** 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. **4** They are Israelites, and to them belong the adoption, the glory, the covenants, the giving of the law, the worship, and the promises. **5** To them belong the patriarchs, and from their race, according to the flesh, is the Christ, who is God over all, blessed forever. Amen.

6 But it is not as though the word of God has failed. For not all who are descended from Israel belong to Israel, **7** and not all are children of Abraham because they are his offspring, but “Through Isaac shall your offspring be named.” **8** This means that it is not the children of the flesh who are the children of God, but the children of the promise are counted as offspring. **9** For this is what the promise said: “About this time next year I will return, and Sarah shall have a son.” **10** And not only so, but also when Rebekah had conceived children by one man, our forefather Isaac, **11** though they were not yet born and had done nothing either good or bad—in order that God’s purpose of election might continue, not because of works but because of him who calls— **12** she was told, “The older will serve the younger.” **13** As it is written, “Jacob I loved, but Esau I hated.”

14 What shall we say then? Is there injustice on God’s part? By no means! **15** For he says to Moses, “I will have mercy on whom I have mercy, and I will have compassion on whom I have compassion.” **16** So then it depends not on human will or exertion,[b] but on God, who has mercy. **17** For the Scripture says to Pharaoh, “For this very purpose I have raised you up, that I might show my power in you, and that my name might be proclaimed in all the earth.” **18** So then he has mercy on whomever he wills, and he hardens whomever he wills.

19 You will say to me then, “Why does he still find fault? For who can resist his will?” **20** But who are you, O man, to answer back to God? Will what is molded say to its molder, “Why have you made me like this?” **21** Has the potter no right over the clay, to make out of the same lump one vessel for honorable use and another for dishonorable use? **22** What if God, desiring to show his wrath and to make known his power, has endured with much patience vessels of wrath prepared for destruction, **23** in order to make known the riches of his glory for vessels of mercy, which he has prepared beforehand for glory— **24** even us whom he has called, not from the Jews only but also from the Gentiles? **25** As indeed he says in Hosea,

“Those who were not my people I will call ‘my people,’
and her who was not beloved I will call ‘beloved.’”

26 “And in the very place where it was said to them, ‘You are not my people,’ there they will be called ‘sons of the living God.’”

27 And Isaiah cries out concerning Israel: “Though the number of the sons of Israel be as the sand of the sea, only a remnant of them will be saved, **28** for the Lord will carry out his sentence upon the earth fully and without delay.” **29** And as Isaiah predicted,

“If the Lord of hosts had not left us offspring,
we would have been like Sodom
and become like Gomorrah.”

30 What shall we say, then? That Gentiles who did not pursue righteousness have attained it, that is, a righteousness that is by faith; **31** but that Israel who pursued a law that would lead to righteousness did not succeed in reaching that law. **32** Why? Because they did not pursue it by faith, but as if it were based on works. They have stumbled over the stumbling stone, **33** as it is written,

“Behold, I am laying in Zion a stone of stumbling, and a rock of offense;
and whoever believes in him will not be put to shame.”

Adoration

Romans 9:5 proclaims that Christ is “God over all.” Christ is the one that unifies his people from every nation and tribe. Other parts of Scripture say that God is worthy of receiving the treasures from every culture.¹ Praise Christ, our Lord and “God over all,” who unites heaven and earth, and people from every nation to himself.

[Pray for 20 seconds.]

Romans 9:6 declares, “But it is not as though the word of God has failed.” Paul repeats this point for several chapters in Romans, that God’s Word has not failed. Praise God that he is trustworthy and true. Adore God in your own words because he always fulfills his promises.

[Pray for 10 seconds.]

Romans 9, verses 14–23, remind us that God is our Creator, and that he created all people for his glory and his purposes. Reflect on the truth that life is about God and not about us. Give God the glory, out loud and in your own words, as the all-powerful Creator who shapes the direction of your life.

[Pray for 10 seconds.]

¹ Hag 2:7; Zech 14:14, 16; Rev 7:9.

Our Lord Christ, you are God over all the peoples of the world. We call you blessed because you bring together people from every nation and tribe into your family.² Only you have the power and the beauty to garner praise from all nations. You alone are worthy of our praise and gratitude, so we offer up our thanks and praise freely and joyfully to you today.

Confession

Romans 9:1–5 contains a description of the deep love and compassion that Paul has for his own people group, the Jews. He has “great sorrow and unceasing anguish,” because the Israelite people whom he loves have yet to follow Christ as Savior. Who do you care about that has yet to follow Jesus? Who are your people?

[Reflect for 3 seconds.]

Now, take a minute to confess where you may have been cold and uncompassionate to others.

[Pray for 5 seconds.]

Confess out loud and in your own words, where you have let your lack of compassion prevent you from sharing the gospel with those around you.

[Pray for 10 seconds.]

Verses 14, 19, and 20 all contain questions that doubt God’s goodness, justice, and mercy. Lift your voice and confess where you have doubted God, become angry with him, or thought that his plans simply were not best.

[Pray for 15 seconds.]

As seen in verses 15, 22, 25, 26 and 29, Romans 9 also describes God’s patience and compassion with sinful and rebellious people. Confess to God the ways that you have continued to sin and rebel against him, even after he has proven to be patient, compassionate, and merciful. Be specific about the sins that you seem to want to hold on to, instead of repenting and allowing God to make you more like himself.

[Pray for 10 seconds.]

Lord, we want you to make us vessels that honor you. We want to make you proud as our Father, and we want the words of our mouths and the meditations of our hearts to be pleasing in your sight.³ Lord, remove anything in our lives that causes us to fall short of your glory. Remove

² Rom 9:4–5.

³ Ps 19:14.

from us anything that dishonors your name. Lord, you are our Creator. We turn from our sins in repentance today, and we pledge our allegiance to you alone.

Thanksgiving

Romans 9 describes God's mercy in verses 14–18, and verse 23 implies that God's actions through history were done so that all of humanity would understand the depth of God's mercy. Praise God that he has had mercy on us! Thank God for the specific ways that he has shown mercy to you and your church.

[Pray for 10 seconds.]

Romans 9 also describes the wrath of God in verses 19–23. God's wrath is related to his righteousness and his judgment. Thank God that he is good, that he is righteous, and that he is just in his judgments.

[Pray for 10 seconds.]

Verses 27–29 remind us that we all deserve wrath. And yet, God has saved us, his people, preserving us from his just judgment. Thank God for saving you in Christ. Thank God for the people he has put in your life to help you understand the gospel and develop a personal relationship with him.

[Pray for 10 seconds.]

Lord, we thank you for being our salvation! We thank you for choosing us. We know that you did not save us because of anything we did to distinguish ourselves. You adopted us into your family only because of your mercy and compassion. Because of your grace, those who were not loved are now called "beloved," and those who were not your people are now called "children of the living God."⁴ Thank you, O Lord. Help us to be grateful, never prideful, about the salvation we have in you.

Supplication

In Romans 9, verse 14 and verse 19, Paul addresses the strong doubts that some people had about God's goodness and mercy. Paul uses these doubts and questions to press deeper into an understanding of God's righteous character. Ask God for the faith to process and overcome doubts that you may have about him. Ask God to show you more of his glorious character as you take your questions and doubts to God.

[Pray for 10 seconds.]

⁴ Hos 1:10, 2:23.

Romans 9:1–5 shows Paul’s desire for his people to know Christ. Pray for your friends, neighbors, and family members who don’t yet know Christ. Pray for them by name, that God would tear down any argument or doubt that prevents them from receiving and believing the good news of the gospel of Jesus Christ.

[Pray for 10 seconds.]

Bring to God any other pressing requests that have been weighing on your heart, especially where you don’t understand or are frustrated by God’s plan in these situations. Ask him to give you a supernatural trust in his goodness and care.

[Pray for 10 seconds]

Benediction

Lord, you are good.⁵ Who are we to answer back to you?⁶ Your compassion and mercy know no end! We are grateful for the compassion that you have shown to us, your people, and we want to make it known to everyone. We praise you that you have provided a righteousness by faith to us, the very ones who did not pursue righteousness.⁷ Help us to glorify you as we share the gospel with our friends and neighbors. Let us see the fruit of our evangelism and your work in the lives of others. Add daily to the number of your family members who give you the glory that you deserve!

AMEN.

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⁵ Ps 119:68.

⁶ Rom 9:20.

⁷ Rom 9:30.



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