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| 1  Romans 9:1-5 Sermon Outline  02/02/25  “The Sorrowful Reality of Israel”  **INTRO:**  If you were to go to street ask = “What is God like?”  Most likely answer = reveal painting a picture of God in their image rather than an biblical picture of God  Probably give answer = God in box  Hardly find someone give accurate pic. = Scripture  Even majority of Christians = not full picture  -Some things right, but other things wrong  That’s because we have tendency = to fashion God to our image and liking and fancy  According to what God should or shouldn’t do  Ex: Look at Israel = supposed to be holy, yet = idolatry | 2  And I think the standard forms that image that we create of God in our heads is = fairness = God should be fair to all  Perhaps equal = God owes/obligated toward us  Idea of fairness = air we breathe, not all of it is bad  Nobody should get into college = skin color/sexual orientation  Should be merit based  (Our president is trying to get us back to a society where it is merit based, not skin based)  That’s a good thing and you want that!  ILLUST:  Me being Japanese to get into college  -80% percent white |
| 3  “Oh! We got an application from a Japanese American, and his name even sounds Japanese “Teruhito Kondo.” Poor guy, his grandparents were probably put in those horrible internment camps. We got to let him in! Forget all his failing grades” (…I didn’t have failing grades thankfully btw, it was decent)  While fairness works when it comes to being accepted into college, it doesn’t work when it comes to salvation  This idea of fairness all too often encroaches into how we think salvation should work (and we will talk more about that in the coming weeks)  The Jews were not immune to this idea of fairness and the idea that God somehow owes us salvation  Because for last eight chapters Paul stressed salvation = not only for Jews but for Gentiles  If a Jew, circumcised but not saved, = your circumcision is uncircumcision | 4  That in fact if an uncircumcised Gentile believes in Jesus, he is more Jewish than an circumcised Jew that doesn’t believe by faith in the Messiah = offensive thought to an Israelite  Even went to show in Rom. 4 salvation = always came by faith, not works + Gentiles were includes in that plan of salvation, not just Jews  In beginning of letter, we see apostle Paul talking about how his apostleship bring about = obedience of Gentiles to Jesus  One of main reasons why He is writing this letter  Word would have spread around to Jews of Paul’s statement in Acts 18:6  “Your blood be upon your own heads, from now on I am going to the Gentiles”  Paul initially was going first to synagogues, prioritizing his people, but rejection after rejection led to this |
| 5  Sounds severe and almost sounds like Paul completely rejected Jews  Ch. 8 = glories of salvation, no condemnation/separation + all the spiritual blessings of heaven = sounds like benefits that should go to chosen people of God = yet the Gentile believers are enjoying this  If you were a Jew reading Romans, knowing most of your fellow Jews don’t believe in Christ, and you see hordes of Gentiles believing = tempted to believe God maybe has abandoned Israel and His Word has failed  After all they rejected Christ first time, and they had second chance of believing through apostles in book of Acts, but still majority of them rejected  Question: “Is there any hope for the Jew?”  “Where is God at with the Jews?” | 6  And then Rom. 9 comes in  Ch. 9, 10, 11 = Israel in past, present, future (respectively) + how Gospel fits into all of that  Ch. 9-11 = difficult section of Bible, especially Ch. 9  Because most “in your face” clearest text on doctrine of election/predestination + doctrine of reprobation = how sinners are condemned  If you thought can’t get any clearer than Rom. 8  “foreknow, predestined, called, justified, glorified”  Because of controversial nature = many preachers gloss over details to avoid the difficult parts, or just skip it all together  But God provided Ch. 9-11 = for reason  2 Tim. 3:16 “*All Scripture is God-breathed and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, for training in righteousness*.” |
| 7  It’s profitable for our souls = meant to be a blessing = to be redeeming  Especially we need to go over Rom 9 = obliterates our notion of human fairness when it comes to salvation that can trap us  It absolutely humbles our pride and eradicates any idea that somehow God owes us or is obligated to us  Now, Rom. 9 = dense = whole sermon series  But don’t want to lose sight of forest for trees (trees are important)  10,000 ft overview  But want to give enough detail of each section of each chapter so that if someone asks you to explain what each section of chapter of Romans is about, you don’t just say “well it’s about election,” but you can explain more in depth why it’s about election  Easier said than done (for me as pastor and for you) | 8  And today we are just going to over vv. 1-5 = Paul’s heart for his Jewish people  Let’s begin starting in Ch. 9:1  “*I am telling the truth in Christ, I am not lying, my conscience testifies with me in the Holy Spirit that I have great sorrow and unceasing grief in my heart…for I could wish that I myself were accursed, separated from Christ for the sake of my brothers, my kinsmen according to the flesh*…”  Quite a change of mood from Ch. 8  God has just taken us to height of glory and love = no condemnation, no separation = in fact we are more than conquerors = God uses both good and bad as servants to conform us more and more into the image of Christ  Suddenly Ch. 9:2 Paul says “I have great sorrow and unceasing grief (or in some translations “anguish”) in my heart |
| 9  By talking about salvation and unspeakable glories that God has done for us in Christ = Paul as Jewish man himself = can’t stop thinking of own people  Reason why He had to stay “I’m not lying” = Jews at this point found it difficult to trust Paul and to believe He really cares about Israel  After all in their eyes = traitor because once zealous Pharisee = putting Christians in jail = but now preaching the faith that he once tried to destroy  But on the contrary Paul’s heart is grieved = broken over the fact that his fellow Jews do not know the love of Christ  So he says I myself wish that I would be “accursed” = damned to hell forever if that meant my fellow Jews could come to know Christ  Unfathomable statement!  Actually statement that Moses echoes in Exodus 32 | 10  Maybe for your spouse (close family member) you would be willing to be accursed MAYBE  But Paul was willing for his salvation to be undone for strangers! People he wasn’t particularly close to but nevertheless had a heart for because they were lost!  Challenge and Lesson for us in that for evangelism  Do we have that kind of love and compassion for the lost?  I know I don’t have that kind of level of love for unbelievers = but I want to have that  And what adds to the sting of the heart of Paul is the fact that Israel rejected Christ despite having all the spiritual advantages!  Remember while back Ch. 3 “what advantage does a Jew then have?” Great in every respect – starts listing, but doesn’t complete it because he was planning to give more fuller treatment in this chapter  And this is the more fuller explanation of that |
| 11  VV. 4-5  “*who are Israelites, to whom belongs the adoption as sons, and the glory and the covenants and the giving of the Law and the temple service and the promises, whose are the fathers, and from whom is the Christ according to the flesh, who is God over all, blessed forever. Amen.”*  Privileges = more or less in chronological order  1) Adopted = not spiritual/salvation adoption = God electing Israel as chosen nation = bring salvation to the world  Adopted them out of paganism to be kingdom of priests  2) Covenant established through one man = Abraham in Genesis 12  From Abraham’s loin = nation of Israel | 12  3) God showed presence w/ Israel through manifestations of glory = Shekinah glory led/protected Israel out of Egypt  4) When delivered of our Egypt = gave the Law of Moses (10 commandments + 600 plus other commands = civic, social, legal, and religious aspects of the nation)  5) Temple service = through this they would be able to access the presence of God and atone for sins  6) God gave them promises Deut. + Lev. Blessings for obedience/ curses for disobedience  Most important promise was the promise of the Messiah that would come from David’s line the king who would one rule and reign for all eternity  “*from whom is the Christ according to the flesh, who is God over all, blessed forever*”  To this very day Jews deny that Jesus was the Christ |
| 13  In their mind they believe Messiah yet to come  Sad reality  In fact many if not most Jews today don’t even know about Isaiah 53 because rabbis have taken it out of the reading of Isaiah = this description of the Messiah’s suffering looks an aweful lot like Jesus and His suffering  No wonder Jesus cried out in anguish like Paul in Matt. 23  *“Jerusalem, Jerusalem, who kills the prophets and stones those who are sent to her! How often I wanted to gather your children together, the way a hen gathers her chicks under her wings, and you did not want it. Behold, your house is being left to you desolate! For I say to you, from now on you will not see Me until you say, ‘Blessed is He who comes in the name of the Lord!’”*  Luke provides additional detail “house being left desolate” = | 14  Lk. 19:44  “*they will level you to the ground and your children within you, and they will not leave in you one stone upon another, because you did not recognize the time of your visitation*.”  That’s exactly what happened – 70 AD Rom. Empire under Titus Vespasian sieged Jerusalem = eventually destroyed temple and city/set it on fire  Identity of Jews = wrapped up around temple  As long as temple was standing = God was with them  Took pride in glorious/magnificent temple all nations would come  Yet foretelling of destruction of temple = Christ saying if you reject Me, no point in having a temple  If you accept Me, you accept the Father  If you reject Me, you reject the Father |
| 15  So the Jews have no excuse  Not be able to stand before God “I didn’t know”  Although Israel was judged severely through its history = God has not abandoned Israel  In fact God is preparing a remnant who are predestined to be saved to where Paul can say one day all Israel (that is all Israel that are of the true Israel) will be saved  We will look more at that in the coming weeks  But you know who else no excuse? US. Us  Not only have OT  Not only have Gospels  We have letter expounding upon Christ  We have the final full revelation of God in written form! | 16  But you know amazing thing, despite having complete Word of God = people still reject the Messiah today  If you are resisting the gospel message, you are no different than a Jew 2000 years ago who rejected Christ  You might look at Jews who betrayed Jesus over to crucifixion as terrible  But know that Jesus went to the cross not only for their sins of handing Him over but your sins as well  Your sins put Him there on that cross  At end of day doesn’t matter Jew or not  All equally deserving of His wrath  Because none righteous, no not one, none who do good and none who seek after God  Only one way to be saved |
| 17  Only one door of that leads to salvation  Door of faith in Jesus Christ  It doesn’t matter how much sin = Christ can pay for every sin  He loved you so much that He designed salvation = wouldn’t be “fair” because if salvation was fair we would all rightly get what we deserved  to be in the lake that burns with fire and brimstone  He wasn’t obligated to save us because we sinned and rejected Him  We have never given to God anything and have nothing to offer God except our filthy rags  No it is while you were dead in trespasses and sins that Christ came and made you alive  He rescued you when you couldn’t rescue yourself | 18  And He brought you into His family as adopted sons and daughters of the King so that you can LIVE like the King  So if you are listening today, realize not right with Lord  Don’t miss opportunity  Don’t do what Israel did – missing visitation  Recognize TODAY, not tomorrow, but TODAY is the day of salvation  You don’t know when your life could suddenly end  On Wednesday night all the 60 passengers riding American Airlines flight towards DC were not expecting their life to end at 9:00 p.m. when a black hawk helicopter crashed into it  You could have been on it and it would have been too late |
| 19  Don’t put off your salvation for more convenient time  There is no convenient time to trust in the Lord  Nothing more important than where you will end up for all of eternity  Cry out to Jesus and He will save your soul  **Communion:** | 20 |