



# Sermon Discussion Guide

January 11, 2026 | Romans 9:1-8 | Jerrod

## **SUMMARY**

Big Idea: God has always been faithful to His promises, because they rest on His mercy, not human effort

In 9:1-18, Paul opens his heart before he opens his argument, showing us that deep doctrine and deep love are never enemies. Paul's deep grief over unbelieving Israel and his unwavering confidence in God's sovereignty lead him to worship at the beginning and the end of the larger section of chapters 9-11 (see 9:5 & 11:33-36). His main thesis is presented in 9:6 that God's promises and saving purposes have not failed. Why not? Because they are rooted in his sovereign grace, as opposed to being the result of our performance. Is this just? You bet! It accords with God's nature, His prerogative, and it has been on display since the beginning of the story.

## **DISCUSSION QUESTIONS**

### **Intro**

When have you felt sorrow and anguish over someone's salvation?  
Has there been any change in their heart or yours?

### **Read Romans 9:1-5**

1. What is Paul's tone and disposition? Why does he feel this way?
2. How does the list of Israel's "advantages" factor into this?

### **Read Romans 9:6-13**

3. Why might someone conclude that God's promises have failed? (Didn't God promise that Israel, all of Israel, would be his people and prized possession? Why then, does the majority of Israel not believe? Why did they reject their messiah? Did God not follow through?)
4. How does Paul answer this question? How have God's promises not failed?
5. In 9:7-13, what examples does Paul use from the Old Testament to support his answer?
  - a. What point does Paul seem to be driving home in these verses?
  - b. What is your reaction to God's unconditional election - God's free choice, not based on works, to show the glory of his saving grace on some, but not all?

### **Read Romans 9:14-18**

6. Why might someone conclude that God is being unjust in his unconditional election?
  - a. How does Paul answer this accusation against God?
  - b. How does Paul use Pharaoh and Moses to support his answer?
7. Have you ever wrestled with what God, through Paul, is teaching here?
  - a. Along with these verses, what other Scriptures have helped you?
8. How does the fact that your salvation is entirely the result of God's free choice and election move you toward greater humility? Greater gratitude? Greater awe?
9. Why is it the best of news that salvation "...does not depend on human will or exertion, but on God who has mercy"?

## **KINGDOM IMPACT - MULTIPLY**

1. **Pray, Think, and Act.** Share any developments and updates in the areas below:
  - a. **Reach** - That God would use you to lead 1 person to faith in Christ
  - b. **Belong** - to multiply opportunities for others to be brought into community
  - c. **Serve** - to begin serving, invite others into serving, or multiplying serving efforts by meeting needs or blessing neighbors or ministry partners together as a group
  - d. **Gather** - to multiply the church (planting, revitalization, helping other churches)