



**Getting-to-know-you questions:**

**For a new group:**

Were you able to attend an Easter Service? What stood out to you as you thought of Jesus' death and resurrection?

**For an established group:**

What's something awe-inspiring you sometimes wonder about—the expanse of the universe, why people think a certain way, how birds can fly?

**From the Message:**

- 1) In Romans 9 Paul sets out to demonstrate that God has not broken his word to the Jewish people even though Paul was proving to them that they were not saved just because of their ethnicity (Children of God by their ancestry from Abraham, Isaac and Jacob.) Why is this so important to Paul and for us?
- 2) In demonstrating that their ethnicity does not save them, Paul points to God's active involvement in choosing/calling those He is saving rather than it being on any of man's part (including even genetics). Why is this so important?
- 3) In making his argument, Paul points to the example of Jacob and Essau and that God chose Jacob and rejected Essau even before they were born. He also points back to the story of the exodus where we read that God hardened Pharaoh's heart. What do you think of that?
- 4) Paul's overarching point is that God is true to His word because this is all His doing. From the very beginning He has been communicating and acting out His plan exactly according to His plan. What does that tell us about the importance of the Old Testament?
- 5) In making his case, Paul points only to God and His actions. Why is it so important that Paul uses God Himself to defend/explain God and doesn't rely on other means?

**Read:**

Romans 9:1-33

And Or

The Book of Romans: Part 2 J.D. Greear,  
Romans 9:1-33

<https://app.rightnowmedia.org/en/player/video/770968?session=782576&position=0>

**Discuss from the readings:**

- 1) After reading this chapter, what were some of the difficulties that stood out to you?
- 2) What can we do to cultivate compassion for the people in our lives who don't yet believe in Jesus?
- 3) What thoughts and emotions come to mind when you encounter Paul's argument for election? In what ways is the doctrine of election comforting to you? In what ways do you find it troubling?
- 4) Have you ever experienced hard-heartedness? How long did it last? What did God use to soften your heart?
- 5) In what ways have you been humbled by God's mercy on you?

**Discuss from the video:**

- 1) After hearing J.D.'s teaching, what were some of the difficulties that stood out to you?
- 2) What can we do to cultivate compassion for the people in our lives who don't yet believe in Jesus?
- 3) What thoughts and emotions come to mind when you encounter Paul's argument for election? In what ways is the doctrine of election comforting to you? In what ways do you find it troubling?
- 4) Have you ever experienced hard-heartedness? How long did it last? What did God use to soften your heart?
- 5) In what ways have you been humbled by God's mercy on you?