

# NOT HUMAN EFFORT, BUT GOD'S MERCY

Romans 9:1-29

Key Verse: 9:16

**“It does not, therefore, depend on human desire or effort, but on God’s mercy.”**

\* In chapters 1-8, Paul taught that Jews and Gentiles alike can be saved by faith in Jesus Christ. In chapters 9-11 Paul deals with Israel’s unbelief and the fulfillment of God’s promise.

1. What was Paul’s great anguish and wish for Israel (1-4a)? What privileges did the Israelites have (4b-5)? Why was this important?
2. What was God’s word to Israel, and why did it not fail (6-7; Gal 3:16)? Who are the children of promise (8-9)?
3. What does the election of Jacob reveal about God’s way of working (10-13)? What is the significance of this?
4. What question did Paul anticipate (14)? How did he answer (15)? Read verse 16. What did Paul conclude? What does the exclusion of human merit in salvation mean to us? How does God display his sovereign power, and for what purpose (17-18)?
5. How do people blame God (19)? Through the metaphor of a potter and clay, what did Paul teach about God and human beings (20-21)?
6. To what do objects of wrath and mercy refer, and how does God deal with each (22-24)? How does Paul demonstrate from Scripture that the Gentiles are included as objects of mercy (25-26)? That a remnant of Israel would be saved (27-29)?