


Day 1

 Please pray for holy guidance and insight before you begin today’s study.

¹⁴ What then shall we say? Is God unjust? Not at all! 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." [Exodus 33:19] ¹⁶ It does not, therefore, depend on man's desire or effort, but on God's mercy. ¹⁷ For the Scripture says to Pharaoh: "I raised you up for this very purpose, that I might display my power in you and that my name might be proclaimed in all the earth." [Exodus 9:16] ¹⁸ Therefore God has mercy on whom he wants to have mercy, and he hardens whom he wants to harden.

Q1. In two to three words, what is the main theme of verses 14-18? And who is in control?


Main theme?

Who is in control?

Q2. How should we act before God?

Romans 8:38-39 [NIV-1984]

³⁸ For I am convinced that neither death nor life, neither angels nor demons, neither the present nor the future, nor any powers, ³⁹ neither height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God that is in Christ Jesus our Lord.

 We should approach God in reverential awe. He, who is the great "I AM!", required Moses to remove his sandals before approaching the burning bush and the surrounding "holy" ground (Exodus 3:2-6).

Philippians 2:9-11 provides the following insight to an event that will occur, without doubt, at a time future to this writing: “⁹ Therefore, God exalted him to the highest place and gave him the name that is above every name, ¹⁰ that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, ¹¹ and every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.” (Think about the millions/billions of people this includes: every person from Adam and Eve to those born in the future; including Believers, Americans, Chinese, Russians, Brazilians, Indians (India), Arabs, indigenous natives, Jewish priests, Islamic Imams, Buddhists, serfs in the Middle Ages, movie stars, avowed atheists, Adolph Hitler, Joseph Stalin, Satan, and demons. Then . . . “every tongue will confess that Jesus Christ is LORD”!)

Why do we provide such obeisance, loyalty, fealty, and honor to human kings, queens, presidents, and celebrities, when God, when Jesus, is the Creator of the universe. (See John 1:1-3; Genesis 1:26: “us”.) While self-righteous pride of the self-important person may demand an ‘underling’ to genuflect before him or her and to pledge absolute fealty, the person was also created by God, just as you and I were created. (See Psalm 139:16^b.)

Lesson 15: Romans 9:14-33

How should we approach the God of the universe, Jesus? Trembling, because we know our sins and how we should be judged? Confident, because we know that Jesus so loved you and me that He willingly died a horrible death to redeem (atone) us from our sins? With head bowed, because God, Jesus are deserving of our worship, honor, devotion, reverence, and fidelity? In awe, because we believe in the One – Christ Jesus of Nazareth – and as such we are included in the body of Believers, His Church, His bride?

“^{13b} For wide is the gate and broad is the road that leads to destruction, and many enter through it. ¹⁴ But small is the gate and narrow the road that leads to life, and only a few find it [Matthew 7:13-14].”

Q3. God is loving. Do I have to worry about inviting Him out of my life? Or about inviting Him from an aspect of my life?

Matthew 12:31-32 [(NIV-1984)]


³¹ And so I tell you, every sin and blasphemy will be forgiven men, but the blasphemy against the Spirit will not be forgiven. ³² Anyone who speaks a word against the Son of Man will be forgiven, but anyone who speaks against the Holy Spirit will not be forgiven, either in this age or in the age to come.

1 Corinthians 12:3 [(NIV-1984)]

Therefore, I tell you that no one who is speaking by the Spirit of God says, "Jesus be cursed," and no one can say, "Jesus is Lord," except by the Holy Spirit.

Lesson 15: Romans 9:14-33

Day 2

 Please pray for holy guidance and insight before you begin today's study.

¹⁹ One of you will say to me: "Then why does God still blame us? For who resists his will?" ²⁰ But who are you, O man, to talk back to God? "Shall what is formed [the created] say to him [the Creator] who formed it, 'Why did you make me like this?' " [Isaiah 29:16; 45:9]

²¹ Does not the potter have the right to make out of the same lump of clay some pottery for noble purposes and some for common use?

Q4. In three to four words, what is the primary teaching in verses 19-21?

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Q5. Is this primary teaching (in verses 19-21) a popular concept in our culture today?


Yes? } Why?
No? }

.....

Q6. Does this passage state that we should never ask God, "Why this?" or "Why that?"

Yes? } Why?
No? }

.....

 God does not want us to 'whine' (complain) about our circumstances to other people; but He does want us to speak directly to Him with our praise, our petitions, our concerns, and our doubts. Since God knows our hearts and our deepest thoughts anyway, why not ask? He wants to hear us.

God is BIG enough to hear our doubts and concerns and complaints. ASK!

Jesus taught, "Ask, and it will be given to you; seek, and you will find; knock, and it will be opened to you." [Matthew 7:7 English Standard Version (ESV)] What is the first step He asked us to take? Ask. Then seek, and the best place to start is reading the Word of God, in which we prayerfully search for an answer. Then knock, which is an action – the first step taken in faith, the first words uttered in faith, an action taken in faith.

Q7. Since you and I are the created, does that put our personal achievements into a new perspective: are we often prideful of our achievements? Do we frequently denigrate our talents, our abilities?

Prideful achievements? Yes? No? Why?

Denigrated talents? Yes? No? Why?

.....


Lesson 15: Romans 9:14-33

Q8. Since you and I are the created, should we stop trying and ‘leave it up to God’? How do we guard against complacency?

Stop trying? Yes? No? Why?


Guard against complacency?

Day 3

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²² What if God, choosing to show his wrath and make his power known, bore with great patience the objects of his wrath — prepared for destruction?

Q9. What/who are “the objects of his wrath”?

 **Objects of his wrath:** “The word ‘[object]’ means a cup, etc. made of earth. As the human body is frail, easily broken and destroyed, it comes to signify also the body. 2 Corinthians 4:7; ‘we have this treasure in earthen vessels [or objects].’ 1 Thessalonians 4:4, ‘that everyone of you should know how to possess his [object] in sanctification and honor’ – that everyone should keep his body from the indulgence of unlawful passions; compare Romans 9:3. Hence, also it means ‘the man himself.’ Acts 9:15, ‘he is a chosen vessel [or object] unto me, etc.’ compare Isaiah 13:5. In this place there is doubtless, allusion to what he had just said of clay in the hands of the potter.

The phrase ‘[object of His wrath]’ denotes wicked people against whom it is fit or proper that wrath should be shown; as Judas is called ‘the son of perdition’. . . . This does not mean that people by their very creation, or their physical nature, are thus denominated; but people who, from long continuance in iniquity, deserve to experience wrath; as Judas was not called ‘son of perdition’ by any arbitrary appointment, or as an original designation, but because in consequence of his avarice and treason this was the name which ‘in fact’ actually described him, or suited his case.” [©1834, *Notes on the Bible* by Albert Barnes. <https://biblehub.com/commentaries/romans/9-22.htm>]

Q10. Why should those, who are “the objects of his wrath,” be “prepared for destruction”?

Lesson 15: Romans 9:14-33

2 Corinthians 5:17 [International Children's Bible (ICB)]

If anyone belongs to Christ, then he is made new. The old things have gone; everything is made new!

Q11. When we become a Believer in the saving grace of Christ Jesus, do we begin a journey of refinement? Or do we remain unchanged?

Refinement? Or unchanged? Why?


Q12. Does God bear us with “great patience”? Why?

Yes? }
No? } Why?

2 Peter 3:9 [International Children's Bible (ICB)]

The Lord is not slow in doing what he promised — the way some people understand slowness. But God is being patient with you. He does not want anyone to be lost. He wants everyone to change his heart and life.

Day 4

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²³ What if he did this to make the riches of his glory known to the objects of his mercy, whom he prepared in advance for glory — ²⁴ even us, whom he also called, not only from the Jews but also from the Gentiles?

Q13. Suddenly, Paul switches from “objects of His wrath” to “objects of His mercy”. To whom is Paul referring?

Lesson 15: Romans 9:14-33

Q14. The Jews were people of the Covenant. Who else is included/adopted (two-word answer)? Are you included?

Two-word answer?


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Are you included? Yes? No? Why?
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Q15. What is the “glory” that is referred?

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²⁵ As he says in Hosea: "I will call them 'my people' who are not my people; and I will call her 'my loved one' who is not my loved one," [Hosea 2:23] ²⁶ and, "It will happen that in the very place where it was said to them, 'You are not my people,' they will be called 'sons of the living God.'" [Hosea 1:10]

Q16. Looking at verse 25, to whom does Paul refer when he writes, “I will call them 'my people' who are not my people”?


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 “The original of the prophecy in Hosea relates to the pardon and reconciliation promised to the apostate and idolatrous people of the northern kingdom [called Israel; the southern kingdom was called Judah]. It is here typically and prophetically applied to the Gentiles. Those who had ceased to belong to the chosen people, and those who had never belonged to it, were to all intents and purposes in the same position.” [©about 1880, *Ellicott's Commentary for English Readers*, edited by Charles J. Ellicott. <https://biblehub.com/commentaries/romans/9-25.htm>]

Q17. Is there a promise given in verse 26 to the “people who are not my people”?

Yes? }
No? } What is the promise?
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Lesson 15: Romans 9:14-33

Day 5

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²⁷ Isaiah cries out concerning Israel: "Though the number of the Israelites be like the sand by the sea, only the remnant will be saved.

Q18. How would you explain this verse?

Revelation 7:1-8 [The Jewish Remnant]

¹ After this I saw four angels standing at the four corners of the earth, holding back the four winds of the earth to prevent any wind from blowing on the land or on the sea or on any tree. ² Then I saw another angel coming up from the east, having the seal of the living God. He called out in a loud voice to the four angels who had been given power to harm the land and the sea: ³ "Do not harm the land or the sea or the trees until we put a seal on the foreheads of the servants of our God."

⁴ Then I heard the number of those who were sealed: 144,000 from all the tribes of Israel. ⁵ From the tribe of Judah 12,000 were sealed, from the tribe of Reuben 12,000, from the tribe of Gad 12,000, ⁶ from the tribe of Asher 12,000, from the tribe of Naphtali 12,000, from the tribe of Manasseh 12,000, ⁷ from the tribe of Simeon 12,000, from the tribe of Levi 12,000, from the tribe of Issachar 12,000, ⁸ from the tribe of Zebulun 12,000, from the tribe of Joseph 12,000, from the tribe of Benjamin 12,000.


²⁸ For the Lord will carry out his sentence on earth with speed and finality."

²⁹ It is just as Isaiah said previously: "Unless the Lord Almighty had left us descendants, we would have become like Sodom, we would have been like Gomorrah."

Q19. What happened to the cities of Sodom and Gomorrah?

Genesis 19:1, 13 [International Children's Bible (ICB)] [God's judgment against Sodom and Gomorrah:]

¹ The two angels . . . [said to Lot,] ¹³ We are about to destroy this city. The Lord has heard of all the evil that is here. So, he has sent us to destroy it."

 The account of God's judgment on the cities of Sodom and Gomorrah is recorded in Genesis 18 & 19; there are too many verses to duplicate herein.


Lesson 15: Romans 9:14-33

Q20. Verse 29: Was Isaiah speaking about the Jewish people? Or others?

Yes? }
No? } Why?

Q21. Could families (or a group of people or a people-group) become like Sodom and Gomorrah? (e.g., the Roman city of Pompeii buried by a Mount Vesuvius eruption)

Day 6

 Please pray for holy guidance and insight before you begin today's study.

Israel's Unbelief

³⁰ What then shall we say? That the Gentiles, who did not pursue righteousness, have obtained it, a righteousness that is by faith; ³¹ but Israel, who pursued a law of righteousness, has not attained it. ³² Why not? Because they pursued it not by faith but as if it were by works. They stumbled over the “stumbling stone.” ³³ As it is written: “See, I lay in Zion a stone that causes men to stumble and a rock that makes them fall, and the one who trusts in him will never be put to shame.” [Isaiah 8:14; 28:16]

Q22. Verse 32: Who/what is the “stumbling stone”?

Q23. How do the Jews try to attain Heaven? Are their efforts, is their strategy, successful?

Lesson 15: Romans 9:14-33

Psalm 127:1-2 [The Message (MSG); a paraphrase]

If God doesn't build the house, the builders only build shacks. If God doesn't guard the city, the night watchman might as well nap. It's useless to rise early and go to bed late, and work your worried fingers to the bone. Don't you know he enjoys giving rest to those he loves?

Acts 4:11-12 [International Children's Bible (ICB)] [After the Lord's ascension, Simon Peter rebuked the Jewish leaders:]

¹¹ Jesus is 'the stone that you builders did not want. It has become the cornerstone.' [Psalm 118:22]

¹² Jesus is the only One who can save people. No one else in the world is able to save us."

2 Timothy 3:14-17 [The Message (MSG); a paraphrase]

But don't let it faze you. Stick with what you learned and believed, sure of the integrity of your teachers — why, you took in the sacred Scriptures with your mother's milk! There's nothing like the written Word of God for showing you the way to salvation through faith in Christ Jesus. Every part of Scripture is God-breathed and useful one way or another — showing us truth, exposing our rebellion, correcting our mistakes, training us to live God's way. Through the Word we are put together and shaped up for the tasks God has for us.

Q24. How do people obtain righteousness?

Romans 10:6, 8-11 [(NIV-1984)]

⁶ But the righteousness that is by faith says . . .

^{8b} 'The word is near you; it is in your mouth and in your heart,' that is, the word of faith we are proclaiming: ⁹ That if you confess with your mouth, 'Jesus is Lord,' and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved. ¹⁰ For it is with your heart that you believe and are justified, and it is with your mouth that you confess and are saved. ¹¹ As the Scripture says, 'Anyone who trusts in him will never be put to shame.'

James 2:24 [The Message (MSG); a paraphrase]

Is it not evident that a person is made right with God not by a barren faith but by faith fruitful in works?

Q25. What does Paul mean by "the Gentiles. . . have obtained it"? Obtained what?

Q26. What does Paul mean by "the Gentiles. . . did not pursue righteousness"?

 right·eous (rī'chəs) adj. [© 2003-2023 Farlex, Inc. <https://www.thefreedictionary.com/righteousness>]

1. Morally upright; without guilt or sin: a righteous parishioner.

2. In accordance with virtue or morality

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