Lesson 11 Romans 9

Did God Make A Mistake?

1. Why does Paul have great sorrow for the people of Israel (vs. 1-5)?

1 I speak the truth in Christ, I do not lie; my conscience joins with the Holy Spirit in bearing me witness

2 that I have great sorrow and constant anguish in my heart.

3 For I could wish that I myself were accursed and separated from Christ for the sake of my brothers, my kin according to the flesh.

4 They are Israelites; theirs the adoption, the glory, the covenants, the giving of the law, the worship, and the promises;

5 theirs the patriarchs, and from them, according to the flesh, is the Messiah. God who is over all\* be blessed forever. Amen.

2. How do verses 6-13 demonstrate that God has not failed in his promise and purpose for Israel?

6 But it is not that the word of God has failed. For not all who are of Israel are Israel,

7 nor are they all children of Abraham because they are his descendants; but “It is through Isaac that descendants shall bear your name.”

8 This means that it is not the children of the flesh who are the children of God, but the children of the promise are counted as descendants.

9 For this is the wording of the promise, “About this time I shall return and Sarah will have a son.”

10 And not only that, but also when Rebecca had conceived children by one husband, our father Isaac—

11 before they had yet been born or had done anything, good or bad, in order that God’s elective plan might continue,

12 not by works but by his call—she was told, “The older shall serve the younger.”

13 As it is written: “I loved Jacob but hated Esau.”

3. How do you cope with the unbelief of some of your family members or close friends?

4. Ten people are guilty of exactly the same crime. The judge decides to pardon all but one who serves the full sentence. How would you evaluate the judge's decision?

5. Challenge Question: Vs. 13 uses a Semitic expression "hated" that means God loved Esau less than Jacob. It does not imply that God predestined Esau for punishment. How does vs. 14-16 clarify this?

13 As it is written: “I loved Jacob but hated Esau.”

14 What then are we to say? Is there injustice on the part of God? Of course not!

15 For he says to Moses: “I will show mercy to whom I will, I will take pity on whom I will.”

16 So it depends not upon a person’s will or exertion, but upon God, who shows mercy.

6. How does the illustration of the potter and clay help us gain a proper perspective (vs. 20-23)?

20 But who indeed are you, a human being, to talk back to God? Will what is made say to its maker, “Why have you created me so?”

21 Or does not the potter have a right over the clay, to make out of the same lump one vessel for a noble purpose and another for an ignoble one?

22 What if God, wishing to show his wrath and make known his power, has endured with much patience the vessels of wrath made for destruction?

23 This was to make known the riches of his glory to the vessels of mercy, which he has prepared previously for glory,

24 namely, us whom he has called, not only from the Jews but also from the Gentiles.

7. How can you reconcile divine sovereignty with human responsibility in salvation?

8. A. How can you tell if someone (other than yourself) is devout out of routine or out of genuine faith  
(vs. 30-32)?

30 What then shall we say? That Gentiles, who did not pursue righteousness, have achieved it, that is, righteousness that comes from faith;

31 but that Israel, who pursued the law of righteousness, did not attain to that law?

32 Why not? Because they did it not by faith, but as if it could be done by works. They stumbled over the stone that causes stumbling,

B. Why is it dangerous to make judgments of this sort?

9. Why was Jesus more of a stumbling stone to the Jews than to the Gentiles (vs. 30-33)?

10. What have been some of the benefits to your spiritual life that have come to you because of where you live?