**I Tell the Truth in Christ**

**by Pastor Fee Soliven**

**Romans 9:1-8**

**Wednesday Evening**

**September 11, 2024**

**Romans 9:1-8**

1 I tell the truth in Christ, I am not lying, my conscience also bearing me witness in the Holy Spirit, 2 that I have great sorrow and continual grief in my heart. 3 For I could wish that I myself were accursed from Christ for my brethren, my countrymen according to the flesh,

4 who are Israelites, to whom pertain the adoption, the glory, the covenants, the giving of the law, the service of God, and the promises; 5 of whom are the fathers and from whom, according to the flesh, Christ came, who is over all, the eternally blessed God. Amen. 6 But it is not that the word of God has taken no effect. For they are not all Israel who are of Israel,

7 nor are they all children because they are the seed of Abraham; but, "In Isaac your seed shall be called." 8 That is, those who are the children of the flesh, these are not the children of God; but the children of the promise are counted as the seed. 9 For this is the word of promise: "At this time I will come and Sarah shall have a son." 9 For this is the word of promise: "At this time I will come and Sarah shall have a son."

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Saints, the words Paul writes bear the truth—he did not lie as his conscience and the Holy Spirit confirm.

Paul reveals his depth of feeling here; as the apostle to the Gentiles, with his great zeal for preaching to the Gentiles, he was probably often accused of turning his back on his own people.

Though his commission to preach the gospel took him outside Jewish boundaries, Paul never lost his love for his Jewish brothers and sisters.

**Romans 1:16-17**

16 For I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ, for it is the power of God to salvation for everyone who believes, for the Jew first and also for the Greek. 17 For in it the righteousness of God is revealed from faith to faith; as it is written, "The just shall live by faith."

Paul’s sorrow was so intense that he was willing to be cursed and cut off from Christ if, by doing so, the Jews would be saved.

For his people’s sake, Paul would have borne the curse himself if it would have ensured their salvation.

Saints, of course, he knew it would be impossible for God to curse him, but his expression shows the intensity of his affection for his people.

**Matthew 27:20-23**

20 But the chief priests and elders persuaded the multitudes that they should ask for Barabbas and destroy Jesus. 21 The governor answered and said to them, "Which of the two do you want me to release to you?" They said, "Barabbas!"

22 Pilate said to them, "What then shall I do with Jesus who is called Christ?" They all said to him, "Let Him be crucified!"

**4 who are Israelites, to whom pertain the adoption, the glory, the covenants, the giving of the law, the service of God, and the promises; 5 of whom are the fathers and from whom, according to the flesh, Christ came, who is over all, the eternally blessed God. Amen.**

Saints, Paul lists the benefits of being a Jew. They were God’s chosen nation.

As such, they had witnessed his glory, received his covenants and his law, worshiped him, and received his promises.

**Genesis 17:2**

I will establish My covenant between Me and you, and I will multiply you exceedingly."

**Exodus 4:22**

Then tell Pharaoh that this is what the LORD says: 'Israel is My firstborn son,

**Exodus 40:34**

Then the cloud covered the Tent of Meeting, and the glory of the LORD filled the tabernacle.

**Deuteronomy 4:13**

He declared to you His covenant, which He commanded you to follow--the Ten Commandments that He wrote on two tablets of stone.

**Deuteronomy 7:6**

For you are a people holy to the LORD your God. The LORD your God has chosen you to be a people for His prized possession out of all peoples on the face of the earth.

**Deuteronomy 14:1**

You are sons of the LORD your God; do not cut yourselves or shave your foreheads on behalf of the dead,

**Deuteronomy 29:14**

I am making this covenant and this oath not only with you,

The ancestors had been great people of God and Christ himself was a Jew in fulfillment of all the promises.

Christ was more than just a Jew, however, he is God, who rules over everything and is worthy of eternal praise.

**1 Timothy 3:14-16**

14 These things I write to you, though I hope to come to you shortly; 15 but if I am delayed, I write so that you may know how you ought to conduct yourself in the house of God, which is the church of the living God, the pillar and ground of the truth.

16 And without controversy great is the mystery of godliness: God was manifested in the flesh, Justified in the Spirit, Seen by angels, Preached among the Gentiles, Believed on in the world, Received up in glory.

This was where the Jews got hung up.

**6 But it is not that the word of God has taken no effect. For they are not all Israel who are of Israel,**

Saints, the Jewish nation as a whole did not respond to the gospel, even though God’s gifts had made them better prepared than any other nation to receive Christ.

On the surface, it might seem that God has failed to fulfill his promise to the Jews.

But that is not the case: Human beings failed. Earlier in this letter, Paul clarified that not everyone born into a Jewish family is truly a Jew—that is, not all Jews are part of spiritual Israel.

**Romans 2:28-29**

28 For he is not a Jew who is one outwardly, nor is circumcision that which is outward in the flesh; 29 but he is a Jew who is one inwardly; and circumcision is that of the heart, in the Spirit, not in the letter; whose praise is not from men but from God.

**Romans 11:5-6**

5 Even so then, at this present time there is a remnant according to the election of grace. 6 And if by grace, then it is no longer of works; otherwise grace is no longer grace. But if it is of works, it is no longer grace; otherwise work is no longer work

**Galatians 3:7-9**

7 Therefore know that only those who are of faith are sons of Abraham. 8 And the Scripture, foreseeing that God would justify the Gentiles by faith, preached the gospel to Abraham beforehand, saying, "In you all the nations shall be blessed." 9 So then those who are of faith are blessed with believing Abraham.

Israel’s history demonstrates that God was fulfilling his promises, apart from human failures and misunderstandings.

Paul illustrates this from three Old Testament events:

**1. The lineage passing from Abraham to Isaac, rather than Ishmael**

**Genesis 17:19-21**

19 Then God said: "No, Sarah your wife shall bear you a son, and you shall call his name Isaac; I will establish My covenant with him for an everlasting covenant, and with his descendants after him.

20 And as for Ishmael, I have heard you. Behold, I have blessed him, and will make him fruitful, and will multiply him exceedingly. He shall beget twelve princes, and I will make him a great nation. 21 But My covenant I will establish with Isaac, whom Sarah shall bear to you at this set time next year."

**2. The lineage passing from Isaac to Jacob, rather than Esau**

**Malachi 1:1-3**

1 The burden of the word of the LORD to Israel by Malachi. 2 "I have loved you," says the LORD. "Yet you say, 'In what way have You loved us?' Was not Esau Jacob's brother?" Says the LORD. "Yet Jacob I have loved; 3 But Esau I have hated, And laid waste his mountains and his heritage For the jackals of the wilderness."

**7 nor are they all children because they are the seed of Abraham; but, "In Isaac your seed shall be called." 8 That is, those who are the children of the flesh, these are not the children of God; but the children of the promise are counted as the seed.** **9 For this is the word of promise: "At this time I will come and Sarah shall have a son."**

Saints, Paul’s first illustration of God’s sovereign choice is Abraham and his children.

Just being Abraham’s physical descendants did not guarantee an inheritance.

The line of natural descent was not the same as the line of promise.

Abraham had children by three different women **Isaac, by Sarah.**

**Genesis 21:1-7**

1 And the LORD visited Sarah as He had said, and the LORD did for Sarah as He had spoken. 2 For Sarah conceived and bore Abraham a son in his old age, at the set time of which God had spoken to him. 3 And Abraham called the name of his son who was born to him--whom Sarah bore to him--Isaac. 4 Then Abraham circumcised his son Isaac when he was eight days old, as God had commanded him.

5 Now Abraham was one hundred years old when his son Isaac was born to him. 6 And Sarah said, "God has made me laugh, and all who hear will laugh with me." 7 She also said, "Who would have said to Abraham that Sarah would nurse children? For I have borne him a son in his old age."

**Abraham had Ishmael, by Hagar**

**Genesis 16:11-12**

11 And the Angel of the LORD said to her: "Behold, you are with child, And you shall bear a son. You shall call his name Ishmael, Because the LORD has heard your affliction. 12 He shall be a wild man; His hand shall be against every man, And every man's hand against him. And he shall dwell in the presence of all his brethren."

Abraham had six more sons by Keturah

**Genesis 25:1-2**

1 Abraham again took a wife, and her name was Keturah. 2 And she bore him Zimran, Jokshan, Medan, Midian, Ishbak, and Shuah.

But God made it clear that Isaac was the son through whom Abraham’s descendants will be counted.

God made a sovereign choice regarding who among Abraham’s physical descendants would carry the line of promise, the line that would result in the Messiah.

God did not choose Isaac because he was better than his half brothers; the choice was made before Isaac was even born. Instead, it was simply God’s sovereign choice.

Therefore, Abraham’s physical descendants are not necessarily children of God.

It is the children of the promise who are considered to be Abraham’s children.

God’s sovereignty, not people’s works or character, is the basis for election.

The Jews were proud of the fact that their lineage came from Isaac, whose mother was Sarah (Abraham’s legitimate wife), rather than from Ishmael, whose mother was Hagar (Sarah’s maidservant).

Paul asserts that no one can claim to be chosen by God because of his or her heritage or good deeds.

God freely chooses to save whomever he wills.

The doctrine of election teaches that it is God’s sovereign choice to save us by his goodness and mercy, and not by our own merit.

Soon and Very soon, Jesus is about to appear, we are almost out of here!

**1 Thessalonians 4:13-18**

13 But I do not want you to be ignorant, brethren, concerning those who have fallen asleep, lest you sorrow as others who have no hope. 14 For if we believe that Jesus died and rose again, even so God will bring with Him those who sleep in Jesus.

15 For this we say to you by the word of the Lord, that we who are alive and remain until the coming of the Lord will by no means precede those who are asleep. 16 For the Lord Himself will descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of an archangel, and with the trumpet of God. And the dead in Christ will rise first.

17 Then we who are alive and remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air. And thus we shall always be with the Lord. 18 Therefore comfort one another with these words.

**1 Corinthians 15:50-54**

50 Now this I say, brethren, that flesh and blood cannot inherit the kingdom of God; nor does corruption inherit incorruption. 51 Behold, I tell you a mystery: We shall not all sleep, but we shall all be changed-- 52 in a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trumpet. For the trumpet will sound, and the dead will be raised incorruptible, and we shall be changed.

53 For this corruptible must put on incorruption, and this mortal must put on immortality. 54 So when this corruptible has put on incorruption, and this mortal has put on immortality, then shall be brought to pass the saying that is written: "Death is swallowed up in victory."

**Short Movie Slide>**

**Acts 2:38-39**

38 Then Peter said to them, "Repent, and let every one of you be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins; and you shall receive the gift of the Holy Spirit. 39 For the promise is to you and to your children, and to all who are afar off, as many as the Lord our God will call."

**Let’s Pray!**

**Benediction**

**"May The LORD bless you and keep you, May The LORD make His face shine upon you, May The LORD be gracious to you, May The LORD lift up His countenance upon you, and give you His (Shalom) peace!**