

Pastor PJ Berner • Compass Bible Church • October 20th & October 21st, 2020 • Romans 9

**Atonement Applied**

1. **\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

1. **\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**
2. **\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

**DISCUSSION QUESTIONS**

1. Read Romans 9:1-3. What was Paul’s concern that prompted him to write Romans 9-11?
2. Read Romans 9:4-5. In your own words, summarize what Paul was saying here about the Israelites.
3. Read Genesis 12:1-3; 15:5; Leviticus 26:12-13; 2 Samuel 7:12-17. What are some of the promises of God contained in these passages that Paul may have had in mind in Romans 9:4?
4. Based on Romans 9:4-5 and Romans 3:1-2, what would you say was the advantage that Israel enjoyed which Paul had in mind in Romans 3:2?
5. Read Romans 9:6-8; Galatians 3:6-9; 4:5-7. Is there a parallel between the Romans verse and these other passages? How then should we think of the distinction between Israel and the Church?
6. Read Romans 9:9-13. What doctrine is Paul addressing in these verses as it pertains to Israel? How does the story of Jacob and Esau prove this doctrine?
7. Read Romans 9:14-15 and Exodus 33:19. What had just happened in the broader context of the Exodus passage (consider Exodus 32 as a whole and specifically 32:27-35. How does this broader context help us understand Exodus 33:19 and Paul’s point in answering a charge against God’s justice in Romans 9:14-15?
8. Read Romans 9:16-17. What was the point of Paul appealing to Pharaoh in verse 17? Read Exodus 14 making note of every time “hardened” appears. How many times did Pharaoh harden his own heart? How many times did God harden Pharaoh’s heart? How many times does the text simply read “his heart was hardened” (the passive implying that he was acted upon)? Finish this sentence: God created Pharaoh for the sole purpose of \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.
9. Read Romans 9:18-19. How would you rephrase the objection made in verse 19 in your own words? This is a common refrain in response to the doctrines of election and predestination. Is this a struggle you have wrestled with or currently wrestle with? How have you been able to work through this? What has been helpful to you in coming to terms with God’s sovereignty over salvation?

10. Read Romans 9:20-21; Isaiah 29:16; 45:9; 64:8; Jeremiah 18:6. What is the analogy repeated in each of these verses, and what is the primary relationship that is being communicated about God and man?

11. Read Romans 9:22-23. What are the two categories of vessels in these verses? What is the purpose of each of these vessels? Though they experience the polar extremes of God’s character, what is it about their purpose that they share in common?

12. Read Romans 9:24. Paul began this section addressing Israel. It would be easy to write this entire chapter off as not applicable to the Church. How does verse 24 prevent us from doing so? What impact does this verse make on our understanding of chapter 9 as a whole?

13. On a scale of 1-10, where would you rank your comfort level with the doctrines addressed in this study? On a scale of 1-10, where would you rank your confidence that these doctrines are biblical?

14. Is it okay for us to believe a doctrine is biblical and right and yet not feel comfortable with it or even like it? Why or why not?

15. Does the doctrine of election or that of reprobation change anything about the Church’s mission? Does it change anything about your own evangelism? Why or why not?