

**“Absolute Sovereignty” Romans 9:1-18 4/06/14**

This morning/afternoon we'd like to see the book of Romans 9:1-18 under the title of "Absolute Sovereignty."

Q1. In verse 3, "For I could wish that I myself were accursed from Christ for my brethren, my countrymen according to the flesh," what does it mean?

Q2. In verse 6, "But it is not that the word of God has taken no effect. For they *are* not all Israel who *are* of Israel," what does it mean?

Q3. In verse 11, "(for *the children* not yet being born, nor having done any good or evil, that the purpose of God according to election might stand, not of works but of Him who calls)," what does it mean?

**(Background)**

In the 9<sup>th</sup> chapter, Paul talks about the sovereignty of God especially between Jews and Gentiles. God is saving not only Jews but also Gentiles based upon the faith in Christ that God accounts for righteousness, not upon the flesh – e.g., race or human flesh works, i.e., not race discrimination but faith.

(Romans 10:9-10, 17) <sup>9</sup> that if you confess with your mouth the Lord Jesus and believe in your heart that God has raised Him from the dead, you will be saved. <sup>10</sup> For with the heart one believes unto righteousness, and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation. <sup>17</sup> So then faith *comes* by hearing, and hearing by the word of God."

So the Christians' relationship with God is grace relationship, not legal relationship. Because of this, Paul was considered as a traitor by the most of Jews or Judaists.

(Acts 21:27-28) Now when the seven days were almost ended, the Jews from Asia, seeing him in the temple, stirred up the whole crowd and laid hands on him, <sup>28</sup> crying out, "Men of Israel, help! This is the man who teaches all *men* everywhere against the people, the law, and this place; and furthermore he also brought Greeks into the temple and has defiled this holy place."

We might not often understand the sovereignty of God alone but with God's foreknowledge that is God knows everything before it will happen.

<sup>1</sup> I tell the truth in Christ, I am not lying, my conscience also bearing me witness in the Holy Spirit,

<sup>2</sup> that I have great sorrow and continual grief in my heart.

1. my conscience ... in the Holy Spirit (led by the Spirit; empowered by the Spirit v 3. (according to the flesh)

2= sorrow and continual grief in my heart

<p><sup>3</sup> For I could wish that I myself were <u>accursed from Christ for my brethren, my countrymen according to the flesh,</u></p> <p><sup>4</sup> who are Israelites, to whom <u>pertain the adoption, the glory, the covenants, the giving of the law, the service of God, and the promises;</u></p> <p><sup>5</sup> of whom <u>are the fathers and from whom, according to the flesh, Christ came,</u> who is <u>over all, the eternally blessed God.</u> Amen.</p>	<p>3= Q1 accursed from Christ for my brethren, my countrymen according to the flesh (if Paul's curse, e.g., death, causes Jews' salvation, I could be cursed, e.g., killed/martyred - expression of an extreme sacrificial love like Jesus <sup>1</sup><i>Phil 3:4-8</i>)</p> <p>4. adoption ( Abram, 76 age, <sup>2</sup><i>Gen 15:4-6</i>); glory (Shekinah, God's presence <sup>3</sup><i>Ex 13:21</i>); the covenants (through Abraham, Moses), the law (e.g. 10 commandments); the service of God (e.g. sin/trespass/ burnt/ grain offering – worship system); the promises (<sup>4</sup><i>Joshua 1:7-8</i>)</p> <p>5. according to the flesh, Christ came (Abraham -&gt; Isaac -&gt; Jacob -&gt; David -&gt; Jesus); over all, (not the blessing passes on, but is over all), <i>the eternally blessed God</i> ( deity of Jesus Christ) , Amen</p>
--	---

<sup>1</sup> *Phil 3:4-8* "though I also might have confidence in the flesh. If anyone else thinks he may have confidence in the flesh, I more so: <sup>5</sup> circumcised the eighth day, of the stock of Israel, of the tribe of Benjamin, a Hebrew of the Hebrews; concerning the law, a Pharisee; <sup>6</sup> concerning zeal, persecuting the church; concerning the righteousness which is in the law, blameless. <sup>7</sup> But what things were gain to me, these I have counted loss for Christ. <sup>8</sup> Yet indeed I also count all things loss for the excellence of the knowledge of Christ Jesus my Lord, for whom I have suffered the loss of all things, and count them as rubbish, that I may gain Christ" (all things including his flesh careers)

<sup>2</sup> *Gen 15:4-6* And behold, the word of the LORD came to him, saying, "This one shall not be your heir, but one who will come from your own body shall be your heir." <sup>5</sup> Then He brought him outside and said, "Look now toward heaven, and count the stars if you are able to number them." And He said to him, "So shall your descendants be."<sup>6</sup> And he believed in the LORD, and He accounted it to him for righteousness.

<sup>3</sup> *Ex 13:21* And the Lord went before them by day in a pillar of cloud to lead the way, and by night in a pillar of fire to give them light, so as to go by day and night.

<sup>4</sup> *Joshua 1:7-8* Only be strong and very courageous, that you may observe to do according to all the law which Moses My servant commanded you; do not turn from it to the right hand or to the left, that you may prosper wherever you go. <sup>8</sup> This Book of the Law shall not depart from your mouth, but you shall meditate in it day and night, that you may observe to do according to all that is written in it. For then you will make your way prosperous, and then you will have good success.

<p><sup>6</sup> But it is <u>not that the word of God</u> has taken <u>no effect</u>. For they <u>are not all Israel who are of Israel</u>,</p> <p><sup>7</sup> nor <u>are they</u> all children because they are <u>the seed of Abraham</u>; but, "<u>In Isaac your seed shall be called</u>."</p> <p><sup>8</sup> That is, <u>those who are the children of the flesh</u>, these <u>are not the children of God</u>; but <u>the children of the promise</u> are counted as the seed. <sup>9</sup> For this <u>is the word of promise</u>: "At this time I will come and <u>Sarah shall have a son</u>."</p> <p><sup>10</sup> And not only <u>this</u>, but when <u>Rebecca</u> also had <u>conceived by one man</u>, <u>even by our father Isaac</u></p> <p><sup>11</sup> (for <u>the children not yet being born</u>, <u>nor having done any good or evil</u>, that the purpose of God <u>according to election</u> might stand, <u>not of works but of Him who calls</u>),</p>	<p>6= Q2 not that the word of God (the word of promise given by God to Abram)... no effect (invalid; God doesn't recognized flesh's work; but the Spirit's works - always walking after the Spirit, not after the flesh; <sup>5</sup>Gal 3:7; Rom 2:29; 1 Cor 3:14); not all Israel who are of Israel (according to flesh)</p> <p>7= nor they all ... the seed of Abraham (Ishmael &amp; Isaac – not Ishmael by Hagar, 13 years older than Isaac, but Isaac by Sarah <sup>6</sup>Gen 16:2; Gen 16:16; 100 age Gen 17:19); In Isaac your seed ... be called.</p> <p>8.9. the children of promise; the word of promise .... Sarah ... a son (supporting faith, not flesh <sup>7</sup>Heb 11:6)</p> <p>10= Rebecca...conceived by ... Isaac (Twin – Esau + Jacob)</p> <p>11= not yet being born, nor having done any good or evil (no human doings/works yet), that the purpose of God... election<sup>8</sup> 1 Peter 1:2... not of works but of Him who calls (i.e., God's absolute sovereignty, with His foreknowledge)</p>
--	---

<sup>5</sup> Gal 3:7 Therefore know that *only* those who are of faith are sons of Abraham; Rom 2:29 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; 1 Cor 3:14 If anyone's work which he has built on *it* endures, he will receive a reward. (built on Jesus Christ)

<sup>6</sup> Gen 16:2 So Sarai said to Abram, "See now, the LORD has restrained me from bearing *children*. Please, go in to my maid; perhaps I shall obtain children by her." And Abram heeded the voice of Sarai; Gen 16:16 Abram *was* eighty-six years old when Hagar bore Ishmael to Abram.; 100 age Gen 17:19 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.

<sup>7</sup> Heb 11:6 But without faith *it is* impossible to please *Him*, for he who comes to God must believe that He is, and *that* He is a rewarder of those who diligently seek Him.

<sup>8</sup> 1 Peter 1:2 "elect according to the foreknowledge of God the Father, in sanctification of the Spirit, for obedience and sprinkling of the blood of Jesus Christ: Grace to you and peace be multiplied."

<p><sup>12</sup> it was said to her, “<u>The older shall serve the younger.</u>”</p> <p><sup>13</sup> As it is written, “<u>Jacob I have loved, but Esau I have hated.</u>”</p> <p><sup>14</sup> What shall we say then? <u>Is there unrighteousness with God? Certainly not!</u></p> <p><sup>15</sup> For He says to Moses, “I will have <u>mercy on whomever I will have mercy, and I will have compassion on whomever I will have compassion.</u>”</p> <p><sup>16</sup> So then <u>it is not of him</u> who wills, nor of him who runs, <u>but of God</u> who shows mercy.</p> <p><sup>17</sup> For the Scripture <u>says to the Pharaoh</u>, “For this very purpose I have raised you up, that I may <u>show My power in you, and that My name may be declared in all the earth.</u>”</p>	<p>12= The older shall serve the younger <sup>9</sup>Gen 25:23; Jer 1:5; God’s foreknowledge of Esau interested only in material things, not in spiritual things <sup>10</sup>Gen 25:33-34; Gen 27:38)</p> <p>13= Jacob I have loved, but Esau I have hated (<sup>11</sup>Mal 1:2-3)</p> <p>14= unrighteousness with God? (unfair with God) Certainly not! (absolutely not)</p> <p>15= mercy on whomever I will have mercy (Moses’ request to show God’s glory <sup>12</sup>Ex 33:19-20)</p> <p>16 ...not of him... but of God (regardless of human works, God’s absolute sovereignty)</p> <p>17= show My power in you... My name may be declared in all the earth (After the 6<sup>th</sup> plague of boils upon man and beast in all the land of Egypt, God said to the Pharaoh <sup>13</sup>Ex 9:16-17; 9<sup>th</sup> plague darkness <sup>14</sup>Ex 10:27)</p>
---	--

<sup>9</sup> Gen 25:23 And the LORD said to her: “Two nations *are* in your womb, Two peoples shall be separated from your body; *One* people shall be stronger than the other, And the older shall serve the younger.”; Jer 1:5 “Before I formed you in the womb I knew you; Before you were born I sanctified you; I ordained you a prophet to the nations.”

<sup>10</sup> Gen 25:33-34 Then Jacob said, “Swear to me as of this day.” So he swore to him, and sold his birthright to Jacob.

<sup>34</sup> And Jacob gave Esau bread and stew of lentils; then he ate and drank, arose, and went his way. Thus Esau despised *his* birthright; Gen 27:38 And Esau said to his father, “Have you only one blessing, my father? Bless me—me also, O my father!” And Esau lifted up his voice and wept.

<sup>11</sup> Mal 1:2-3 “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; <sup>3</sup> But Esau I have hated, And laid waste his mountains and his heritage For the jackals of the wilderness.”

<sup>12</sup> Ex 33:19-20 Then He said, “I will make all My goodness pass before you, and I will proclaim the name of the LORD before you. I will be gracious to whom I will be gracious, and I will have compassion on whom I will have compassion.” <sup>20</sup> But He said, “You cannot see My face; for no man shall see Me, and live.”

<sup>13</sup> Ex 9:16-17 But indeed for this *purpose* I have raised you up, that I may show My power *in* you, and that My name may be declared in all the earth. <sup>17</sup> As yet you exalt yourself against My people in that you will not let them go.

<sup>18</sup> Therefore He has mercy on whom He wills, and whom He wills He hardens.

18= He has mercy on whom He wills; He hardens whom He wills (whatever He pleases, He will do so – Absolute sovereignty!)

***All quotations are taken, except King James Version (KJV), from New King James Version (NKJV), © 1982 by Thomas Nelson, Inc. Used by permission. All rights reserved.***

***© Copyright 2014 by Wayne Kim. All rights reserved. No part of this material may be reproduced in any forms or by any means without the prior written permission of the publisher, except for brief quotations in critical articles or reviews.***

---

<sup>14</sup> *EX 10:27* But the LORD hardened Pharaoh's heart, and he would not let them go. (The Lord allowed to harden/stiffen Pharaoh's heart, with God's foreknowledge of Pharaoh's arrogance. )