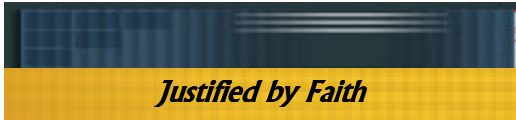


# Living Connections Bible Study



## God's Righteousness Vindicated

**Text:** Romans 9:1-16

**Prayer:**

**Icebreaker:** What heritage, benefits, and blessings (if any) came with being part of your family?

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1. What is the great theme that runs throughout the first 8 chapters of Romans?  
Romans 1:16-17; 5:1-2

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Paul has shown us that God is righteous in the exercise of both His wrath and grace toward all members of the human race whether Jew or Gentile. Jews and Gentile are justified on exactly the same grounds of grace through faith in the Savior, and no one is justified by human merit or through works.

Coming to Romans chapters 9-11 Paul addresses concerns coming from his fellow Jews. By the time Romans was written (57 AD), Gentile far outnumbered Jew in the early church. The majority of Jews rejected God's provision of righteousness for sinners through the Savior. They continued to trust in their family pedigree as descendants of Abraham and in their attempt to follow the laws of Judaism as their means of acceptance before God. On the other hand, millions of Gentile believers were flooding into the Church, being gloriously converted/saved on the basis of their faith in the Savior.

Hadn't God chosen Israel to be His elect and chosen representatives to declare and demonstrate His glory to the world? Had God cast away Israel and broken His promises to Abraham and to the other Jewish patriarchs? Paul addresses these concerns in chapters Romans chapters 9, 10, and 11.

2. What marvelous expression of Paul's love for his fellow Jews do we find in verses 1-3 ?

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3. What tremendous heritage and blessings had the Jews inherited from Abraham? Verses 4-5

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4. What questions does Paul answer for the Jews in chapters 9-11 to show them that God had not failed to keep His covenant promises to Abraham nor had He cast aside Israel? 9:14; 11:1, 11

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It is imperative that we recognize that God's elective and sovereign choices in bestowing certain blessings, promises and heritage to Abraham and His descendants did not guarantee their salvation.

Some have falsely claimed that Paul's purpose in this chapter is to show that some are elected to salvation and others by default are elected to hell. Not so! Paul is showing his Jewish readers in chapters 9-11 (as he has shown us in the previous 8 chapters) that justification is by grace through faith to all who will believe. And God's grace, covenants, promises, and blessings are contingent on a response of faith.

5. How does Paul illustrate that physical descendency from Abraham does not guarantee spiritual descendency (justification before God) ? Verses 6-9; 4:3; Hebrews 11:8-12

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6. Explain the four ways the Bible uses the term *seed* as it applies to the descendants of Abraham.

1) Genesis 15:5, 25:1-2; Romans 9:7a \_\_\_\_\_

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2) Romans 9:7b-8 \_\_\_\_\_

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3) Galatians 3:16 \_\_\_\_\_

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4) Galatians 3:26-29 \_\_\_\_\_

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God made the sovereign unchallengeable choice of Isaac in preference to Ishmael through whom his covenant promises, including the Messiah, would be fulfilled. This illustrates a vital spiritual truth: The *children of promise*, those who come to God by faith become the children of God, not the natural born children who seek to come to God through the works of the flesh.

7. What illustration does Paul use to show his fellow Jews that being related to Abraham did not automatically entitle them to all the blessings of the Abrahamic Covenant including salvation? Verses 10-12; Genesis 25:23

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8. Is it God's sovereign right as our Creator to choose how (on what grounds) and toward whom He will show mercy and save sinners? Verses 11, 14-16

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9. Who has God elected to save and on what terms? John 3:16; Romans 10:9-13; 11:32; Acts 10:34; John 1:12-13; Ephesians 2:8-9

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**Think about it this week:**

John F. Parkinson in his book, The Faith of God's Elect, wrote:  
*The story of Jacob and Esau is used by Paul to illustrate that God chooses to save by grace and not by works, and that the purpose of God according to election or choice, will be on His terms alone and that works will play no part in it. The blessing has its origin in God's gracious call.*

**And what is God's universal call?**

*Whoever shall call on the name of the Lord shall be saved.*

**Romans 10:13**