

Romans Lesson 12 Articles

The Bible is full of this idea of the special sonship of Israel and of Israel's refusal to accept it in the fullest sense. Boreham somewhere tells how he was visiting in a friend's house when he was a boy. There was one room into which it was forbidden to go. One day he was opposite the room when the door opened and inside he saw a boy of his own age, but in a dreadful state of animal idiocy. He saw the boy's mother go to his side. She must have seen young Boreham in all his health and sanity and then looked at her own son; and the comparison must have pierced her heart. He saw her kneel by the idiot boy's bedside and heard her cry out in a kind of anguish: "I've fed you and clothed you and loved you—and you've never known me." That was what God might have said to Israel—only in this case it was worse, for Israel's rejection was deliberate and open-eyed. It is a terrible thing to break the heart of God.¹

9:15 — For He says to Moses, "I will have mercy on whomever I will have mercy, and I will have compassion on whomever I will have compassion."

God blesses people with His grace and mercy, not because they deserve it but because it is God's nature to give grace and mercy. Neither grace nor mercy can be demanded; they can only be gratefully accepted.²

Human logic cannot harmonize divine sovereignty and human freedom, but both are clearly taught in Scripture³

So Paul was saying that God had brought together in his new order those of faith regardless of their national background. Although he worked out his redemptive plan through his Son Jesus, a descendant of David in terms of his human nature, his new people are comprised of those who are Gentile by birth as well as Jewish. **It is faith, not national origin, that brings a person into the family of God**⁴

¹ Barclay, W. (Ed.). (1975). *The letter to the Romans* (pp. 124–125). Philadelphia: The Westminster John Knox Press.

² Stanley, C. F. (2005). *The Charles F. Stanley life principles Bible: New King James Version* (Ro 9:15). Nashville, TN: Nelson Bibles.

³ Mounce, R. H. (1995). *Romans* (Vol. 27, p. 202). Nashville: Broadman & Holman Publishers.

⁴ Mounce, R. H. (1995). *Romans* (Vol. 27, pp. 203–204). Nashville: Broadman & Holman Publishers.