

**Lesson 15**  
**God's Selection of True Israel**  
**( Romans 9:1-18 )**

• **Questions**

1. What was Paul's emotion and attitude toward his fellow-Israelites and why (9:1-3)?
  
2. List all the blessings, privileges, and advantages given to Israel by God (9:4-5).
  
3. How does Paul describe Jesus Christ in verse 5?
  
4. What false charge does Paul address in verse 6?
  
5. In answer to this false charge, who are the true Israelites who will be saved and who are not? Who is included in salvation and who is excluded from salvation (9:6-8)?
  
6. What two Old Testament examples does Paul use to show that true Israelites come through the child of promise – a selection made by God, not man (9:9-13)?
  
7. What additional false charge does Paul address in verse 14?
  
8. In answer to this false charge, what two Old Testament examples does Paul use to show that true Israelites come through an act of God's mercy – a selection made by God, not man (9:15-18)?

## • Digging Deeper

1. How do the words of Paul about Israel in particular (chapters 9-11) fit into what he has written already in general about justification by faith in Christ (chapters 1-8)?
2. What is implied in Romans 9:1-3 about Israel that is made clearer in Romans 10:1-3?
3. What role does the conscience play in a person's life (9:1; see also Romans 2:15; 14:1ff)?
4. How is Romans 9:4-5 similar to Romans 3:1-2?
5. Specifically, what "word of God" is Paul talking about in verse 6?
6. What Old Testament scripture is referred to in verse 7?
7. What Old Testament scripture is referred to in verse 9?
8. How do the words "not of works" (9:11) relate to what Paul wrote earlier in Romans 3:27-28?
9. What Old Testament scripture is referred to in verse 12? Does this passage speak of two individuals, or two nations? (It is important to understand how this passage is used to refute Calvin's false doctrine of unconditional election and reprobation of individuals.)

10. What Old Testament scripture is quoted in verse 13? Does this passage speak of two individuals, or two nations? Does this passage speak of individual salvation, or of national service? (It is important to understand how this passage is used to refute Calvin's false doctrine of unconditional election and reprobation of individuals.)
11. What Old Testament scripture is quoted in verse 15?
12. What Old Testament scripture is quoted in verse 17? Did God harden Pharaoh's heart against his will, or did Pharaoh choose to harden his own heart? Read Exodus 4:21; 7:3; 8:15,32; 9:12,34 in context. (It is important to understand how this passage is used to refute Calvin's false doctrine of unconditional election reprobation of individuals.)
13. Read verses 15 through 18 carefully. Does this passage state specifically to whom God will extend mercy or whom he actually hardens? Or, does it state only that God himself determines these matters? Does God extend mercy conditionally or unconditionally (Prov. 28:13; Isa. 55:7)?

#### • Applications for Today

1. Like Paul, we should have a strong, heart-felt desire for our fellow-man to be saved (9:1-3).
2. Just because people today are blessed by God (the abundance of God's word), does not mean that they will accept his plan of salvation (9:4-5).
3. God selects and elects who will be saved on his terms, not on our terms (9:6-18).
4. Removing Romans 9:11-18 from its context has led many to believe John Calvin's false doctrine of the unconditional election and reprobation of individuals to heaven and hell.