

## **A Word from Kathy**

Can you imagine the absurdity of reading a sign like the one below? We would all be totally unqualified for this position. And yet we often try to usurp our will as if we are the one in charge. Keep this sign in mind as you read Romans 9-11 this week. God is the creator and sustainer of all things and sovereign over all. Pray, asking God to give you insight into these chapters.

**Wanted**

**Supreme Judge of the Universe**

**Apply here**

Qualifications needed: Omnipotent (all-powerful), Omniscient (all-knowing), omnipresent (present everywhere at the same time), immutable (unchanging), eternal (above and beyond the bounds of time), self-existent (needing nothing), holy (perfectly good), and just (absolutely right in all decisions).

## **Observation**

1. In Romans 9:1-4, what are the benefits listed by Paul for those who are born an Israelite?

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2. Paul sights two examples of sovereign choice and will in Romans 9:6-13. Who were these two examples?

3. Read Romans 3:10-12, 23; Romans 9:16; Eph. 2:8-9, and put this truth in your own words?
4. Read 2 Peter 3:9 and Romans 9:18 carefully; what do you see in these two verses that gives you a greater understanding about the mercy and love of God?
5. Paul paints a very clear word picture for us in Romans 9:19-21; write it in your own words.
6. The idea of God's sovereign wrath and mercy can be difficult for us to grasp. Paul goes to great lengths to help us. The ESV study Bible notes may be helpful to you. "God created a world in which both his **wrath** and his **mercy** would be displayed. Indeed, his mercy shines against the backdrop of his just wrath, showing thereby that the salvation of any person is due to the marvelous grace and love of God. If this is difficult to understand, it is because people mistakenly think God owes them salvation!" Who are the "objects of his mercy" spoken of in verse 23?
7. A jeweler places a diamond against a soft black cloth to reveal its true beauty; what does God do in order that men and women might see the riches of his glory? Notice verse 24; who is the initiator of this loving relationship?
8. Paul tries to help us gain a clearer understanding of the workings of God. He agrees that as a whole, the nation of Israel desired to be right with God by keeping the law; but was this even possible? From all we have studied so far, can a man be right with God by adhering to the law? (Read Galatians 3:11.)  
In what ways did the Gentiles differ according to Romans 9:30?
9. In Romans 9:3 and Romans 10:1, what did Paul say he would love to see more than anything else?
10. Paul commends the Israelites for their \_\_\_\_\_ (Romans 10:2), but then he turns around and reprimands them for missing \_\_\_\_\_ (Romans 10:3-4).
11. Do you know what to say to someone who longs to have their sins forgiven, one who desires to know God and have a relationship with him? Romans 10:8-10 are wonderful

verses to memorize.

What two truths does verse 9 say we must agree with God concerning, that previously we opposed in our hearts, minds and actions?

12. Romans 10:13 is a key verse, which means it is a pivotal point in the text, a truth that cannot be left out or changed without changing the entire message. If we are a believer, what is our responsibility mentioned in Romans 10:13-15?
13. It is true that the Jews did not, for the most part, recognize Jesus their Messiah when he came (Romans 10:16). What did they do?
14. Before we leave Romans 10, in what magnificent way does God continue to show his mercy to Israel?
15. In Romans 11, Paul shares that God has opened the way for the Gentiles (anyone not a Jew) to be saved and have a personal relationship with Him. This was not the first time Israel had turned its back on God. If you are not familiar with this story, you might want to look up 1 Kings 19. Elijah had just enjoyed a miraculous victory over the heathen prophets of Baal (1 Kings 18), but now was running from a heathen queen who wanted to kill him. Great victories are no guarantee of future victories. Elijah thought he was the only one left serving God. Was that true?  
We need not be concerned about the size of the opponent we face in battle as long as God is for us (Romans 8:31).
16. According to Romans 11:11-24, what was God's purpose in rejecting (some translations say "cast away") Israel for a period of time? Notice the warning given in these verses.
17. When Paul speaks of a "mystery" he is not referring to something difficult to grasp or puzzling. He is referring to something previously hidden, now revealed.  
What is the mystery that he is referring to in Romans 11: 25?  
What assurance do we see in verse 29?

## **Application**

18. As we studied Romans 9:19-29, the mercy of God displayed against his wrath, did you stop to ponder for a few moments how his mercy is being displayed every day in the world you live in?
19. Paul laments the fact that his people, the Jews, had rejected the gospel. No one could fault them for their zeal, but they were zealous for the wrong thing. Have you ever met someone who was super religious, but their dedication was directed in the wrong way? Perhaps they had a list of do's and don'ts, or maybe perfect church attendance was a big deal in their agenda, but living it out the other six days a week was not a high priority to them. There is an old saying: "Their Saturday night activities do not match their Sunday morning profession." Read Matthew 23:24-25 to see how Jesus describes this type of person.
20. Like the Israelites, we have been given much. In Luke 12:48, Jesus said *"Everyone to whom much was given, of him much will be required, and from him to whom they entrusted much, they will demand the more."* What have you been given and what are you doing with it?
21. How important is it for us to be faithfully sharing the good news of Jesus Christ with all we come in contact with? There are many ways to share this good news; name a few.
22. In Romans 10:14-15, God desires for us to participate along with him as he draws men and women to himself. Would you say that you are participating with him in the hearts and lives of others?
  - We must stay alert and care enough for others and give our time as God opens a window of opportunity.
  - We must share the good news as faithfully and graciously as we can with others.
  - We must pray that God will bless every seed we plant and help it to flourish in their hearts.
23. How has seeing God's sovereign wrath, mercy, and grace in these 3 chapters affected your walk of faith?

24. What are you zealous for? I did not say what are you interested in; there is a difference between the areas of our interest and things we are zealous over.

**Zeal** - *a passionate pursuit, filled with enthusiasm and eagerness for something.*

25. Knowing God's faithfulness to Israel, that he will always have a remnant, was your faith strengthened? Why is this crucial to our fully trusting God?

26. God has a plan for all of time. Just because our mind has difficulty comprehending this does not make it untrue. Romans 11:25 says that Israel's heart was hardened until the fullness of the Gentiles has come. God knows the appointed time when the last Gentile will be saved. What amazing miracle are you waiting to see happen? What have you been praying and praying, asking God to answer? When can you expect your answer?