


Day 1

 Please pray for holy guidance and insight before you begin today's study.

 Provided for continuity; the last verse (Romans 9:13) from the previous StudySheet/Lesson:
¹³ Just as it is written: "Jacob I loved, but Esau I hated."

¹⁴ What then shall we say? Is God unjust? Not at all! ¹⁵ For he says to Moses, "I will have mercy on whom I have mercy, and I will have compassion on whom I have compassion." [Exodus 33:19] ¹⁶ It does not, therefore, depend on man's desire or effort, but on God's mercy. ¹⁷ For the Scripture says to Pharaoh: "I raised you up for this very purpose, that I might display my power in you and that my name might be proclaimed in all the earth." [Exodus 9:16] ¹⁸ Therefore God has mercy on whom he wants to have mercy, and he hardens whom he wants to harden.

Q1. In two to three words, what is the main theme of verses 14-18? And who is in control?


Main theme?

Who is in control?

Q2. How should we act before God?

Romans 8:38-39 [NIV-1984]

³⁸ For I am convinced that neither death nor life, neither angels nor demons, neither the present nor the future, nor any powers, ³⁹ neither height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God that is in Christ Jesus our Lord.

 "We should approach God in reverential awe. He, who is the great "I AM!", required Moses to remove his sandals before approaching the burning bush and the surrounding "holy" ground (Exodus 3:2-6).

"Philippians 2:9-11 provides this insight to an event that will occur, without doubt, at a time future to this writing: ' ⁹ Therefore, God exalted him to the highest place and gave him the name that is above every name, ¹⁰ that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, ¹¹ and every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.'

"Imagine the millions/billions of people this includes: every person from Adam and Eve to those born in the future; including Believers, Americans, Chinese, Russians, Brazilians, Indians (India), Arabs, indigenous natives, Jewish priests, Islamic Imams, Buddhists, serfs in the Middle Ages, movie stars, avowed atheists, Adolph Hitler, Joseph Stalin, kings, queens, pharaohs, Satan's demons, and Satan himself. Then. Quickly looking up, we see all of

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these people, including Satan, falling to their knees and bowing. We hear a chorus of voices — all voices, all tongues, in unison, speaking aloud, and clearly confessing, clearly proclaiming . . . “*Jesus Christ is LORD*”! [My words are so inadequate to describe this event.]

“Why do we provide such obeisance, loyalty, fealty, and honor to human kings, queens, presidents, and celebrities, when God, when Jesus, is the Creator of the universe. (See John 1:1-3 ↓; Genesis 1:26: “*us*” ↓.) While the self-righteous pride of the self-important person may demand a subordinate to genuflect before him or her and to pledge absolute fealty, that prideful person was also created by God, just as you and I were created. (See Psalm 139:16^b ↓.)

“How should we approach the God of the universe, Jesus? Trembling. Yes, trembling because we know our sins and how we should be judged. [Frankly, many years ago I think God should have judged me for my many sins, found me – oh, so – guilty, and ‘smoked’ me in judgment. . . Thank You God for Your forgiveness and Your gift of eternal life through Christ Jesus!] And confident, because we know that Jesus so loved you and me that He willingly died a horrible death to redeem (atone) us from our sins. With our head bowed, because God, Jesus, and the Holy Spirit are deserving of our worship, honor, love, devotion, reverence, and fidelity. Lastly, in awe, because we believe in the Redeemer – Christ Jesus of Nazareth – and as such you and I are included in the *Lamb’s Book of Life* [see Revelation 21:27 and Ephesians 1:13-14]; we are worshippers in the body of Believers, His Church, His bride. ‘*Holy, holy, holy is the Lord God Almighty, who was, and is, and is to come.*’ [Revelation 4:8b (NIV-1984)] Amen.

“^{13b} For wide is the gate and broad is the road that leads to destruction, and many enter through it. ¹⁴ But small is the gate and narrow the road that leads to life, and only a few find it [Matthew 7:13-14].”

Genesis 1:26 [NIV-1984]

²⁶ Then God said, "Let us make man in our image, in our likeness, and let them rule over the fish of the sea and the birds of the air, over the livestock, over all the earth, and over all the creatures that move along the ground."

Psalms 139:16b [NIV-1984]

All the days ordained for me were written in your book before one of them came to be.

John 1:1-3 [NIV-1984]

¹ In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. ² He was with God in the beginning. ³ Through him all things were made; without him nothing was made that has been made.

Q3. God is loving. Do I have to worry about inviting Him out of my life? Or about inviting Him from an aspect of my life?

Matthew 12:31-32 [NIV-1984]

³¹ And so I tell you, every sin and blasphemy will be forgiven men, but the blasphemy against the Spirit will not be forgiven. ³² Anyone who speaks a word against the Son of Man will be forgiven, but anyone who speaks against the Holy Spirit will not be forgiven, either in this age or in the age to come.


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1 Corinthians 12:3 [(NIV-1984)]

Therefore, I tell you that no one who is speaking by the Spirit of God says, "Jesus be cursed," and no one can say, "Jesus is Lord," except by the Holy Spirit.

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Day 2

 Please pray for holy guidance and insight before you begin today's study.

¹⁹ One of you will say to me: "Then why does God still blame us? For who resists his will?" ²⁰ But who are you, O man, to talk back to God? "Shall what is formed [the created] say to him [the Creator] who formed it, 'Why did you make me like this?' " [Isaiah 29:16; 45:9]

²¹ Does not the potter have the right to make out of the same lump of clay some pottery for noble purposes and some for common use?

Q4. In three to four words, what is the primary teaching in verses 19-21?

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Q5. Is this primary teaching (in verses 19-21) a popular concept in our culture today?


Yes? } Why?
No? }

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Q6. Does this passage state that we should never ask God, "Why this?" or "Why that?"

Yes? } Why?
No? }

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 God does not want us to 'whine' (complain) about our circumstances to other people; but He does want us to speak directly to Him with our praise, our petitions, our concerns, and our doubts. Since God knows our hearts and our deepest thoughts anyway, why not ask? He wants to hear us.

God is BIG enough to hear our doubts and concerns and complaints. ASK!

Jesus taught, "Ask, and it will be given to you; seek, and you will find; knock, and it will be opened to you." [Matthew 7:7 English Standard Version (ESV)] What is the first step He asked us to take? Ask. Then seek, and the best place to start is reading the Word of God, in which we prayerfully search for an answer. Then knock, which is an action – the first step taken in faith, the first words uttered in faith, an action taken in faith.

Q7. Since you and I are the created, does that put our personal achievements into a new perspective: are we often prideful of our achievements? Do we frequently denigrate our talents, our abilities?

Prideful achievements? Yes? No? Why?

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Denigrated talents? Yes? No? Why?

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Q8. Since you and I are the created, should we stop trying and ‘leave it up to God’? How do we guard against complacency?

Stop trying? Yes? No? Why?


Guard against complacency?

Day 3

 Please pray for holy guidance and insight before you begin today’s study.

²² What if God, choosing to show his wrath and make his power known, bore with great patience the objects of his wrath — prepared for destruction?

Q9. What/who are “the objects of his wrath”?

 **Objects of his wrath:** “The word ‘[object]’ means a cup, etc. made of earth. As the human body is frail, easily broken and destroyed, it comes to signify also the body. 2 Corinthians 4:7; ‘we have this treasure in earthen vessels [or objects].’ 1 Thessalonians 4:4, ‘that everyone of you should know how to possess his [object] in sanctification and honor’ – that everyone should keep his body from the indulgence of unlawful passions; compare Romans 9:3. Hence, also it means ‘the man himself.’ Acts 9:15, ‘he is a chosen vessel [or object] unto me, etc.’ compare Isaiah 13:5. In this place there is doubtless, allusion to what he had just said of clay in the hands of the potter.

The phrase ‘[object of His wrath]’ denotes wicked people against whom it is fit or proper that wrath should be shown; as Judas is called ‘the son of perdition’. . . . This does not mean that people by their very creation, or their physical nature, are thus [designated]; but people who, from long continuance in iniquity, deserve to experience wrath; as Judas was not called ‘son of perdition’ by any arbitrary appointment, or as an original designation, but because in consequence of his avarice and treason this was the name which ‘in fact’ actually described him, or suited his case.” [©1834, *Notes on the Bible* by Albert Barnes. <https://biblehub.com/commentaries/romans/9-22.htm>]

Q10. Why should those, who are “the objects of his wrath,” be “prepared for destruction”?

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The Apostle Paul's metaphor has progressed from the potter's "lump of clay" (verse 21) to a completed pot. The potter has formed the "lump of clay" into an "object", a container; the raw clay of the object has dried; and the object has, perhaps, been glazed and fired. Our being is like a container, a vessel, and like any fragile container made of clay, it requires care and cleaning. If our bodies are a container, how do we wash dirt from it? We can shower or bathe to cleanse the outside, but how do we clean the inside of the container?

We, who believe in the saving grace of Christ Jesus, know the truth of 2 Corinthians 5:17 (↓). Before we believed in the saving grace of Christ Jesus, we remember the extent of the dirt (i.e., our sins) that stained our lives, our thoughts, and our heart. We now know the gift of salvation and the forgiveness of sins that cleanses us from all iniquity and unrighteousness (Psalm 51:2; 1 John 1:9). We know how our lives have changed as Believers — the "old has gone . . . we are new". As we seek forgiveness, repent of our sins, and obey through actions, the Holy Spirit provides a continual refinement of our beings, a cleansing of the inside of the container.

2 Corinthians 5:17 [International Children's Bible (ICB)]

If anyone belongs to Christ, then he is made new. The old things have gone; everything is made new!

Q11. When we become a Believer in the saving grace of Christ Jesus, do we begin a journey of refinement? Or do we remain unchanged?

Refinement? Or unchanged? Why?



Everyone is born with a conscience; see Romans 2:14-15 (↓).

People make choices every day: What do I eat today? Should I go to work? Should I kiss my wife/husband/kids before I leave? I want that, should I steal it? I'm caught, should I lie? I like pornography, should I watch? I like sex, should I force this girl? I didn't like this person's remark, should I slap them? This person disrespected me, should I drive my car within inches of their bumper and teach them a lesson? I'm in a bad mood, should I be rude to this waitress, this salesperson?

Yes, the person's parents, grandparents, and close neighbors all contribute to a person's upbringing. (Exodus 20:5 also plays a role, due to judgment.) However, the person — based on their conscience — has choices to make: right or wrong, good or bad, every day, every minute of every day. Some decisions are consequential, some inconsequential, but each decision is shaped by the moral fabric that comprises the individual.

Romans 2:14-15 [The Message (MSG)]

¹⁴⁻¹⁵ When outsiders who have never heard of God's law follow it more or less by instinct, they confirm its truth by their obedience. They show that God's law is not something alien, imposed on us from without, but woven into the very fabric of our creation. There is something deep within them that echoes God's yes and no, right and wrong. Their response to God's yes and no will become public knowledge on the day God makes his final decision [judgment] about every man and woman [based upon what is recorded in the Book of Life (Revelation 20:12-13)].



In 2 Corinthians 3 (↓), especially verses 14-16, Paul describes a veil that covers the mind's eye of the Jewish people; even today, they are prevented from recognizing the Truth of salvation through Christ Jesus. (These verses also apply to nonbelievers throughout history.)

2 Corinthians 3:12-18 [International Children's Bible (ICB)]

¹² We have this hope, so we are very brave.

¹³ We are not like Moses. He put a covering [a veil] over his face so that the people of Israel would not see it. The glory was disappearing, and Moses did not want them to see it end.

¹⁴ But their minds were closed. Even today that same covering hides the meaning when they read the

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old agreement [Old Testament]. That covering is taken away only through Christ. ¹⁵ But even today, when they read the law of Moses, there is a covering over their minds. ¹⁶ But when a person changes and follows the Lord, that covering is taken away.

¹⁷ The Lord is the Spirit. And where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is freedom. ¹⁸ Our faces, then, are not covered. We all show the Lord's glory, and we are being changed to be like him. This change in us brings more and more glory. And it comes from the Lord, who is the Spirit.



That said, Paul continues in chapter 4 (↓), specifically verse 4, to describe how Satan, the ruler of this world also holds a veil in-place over the mind's eye blinding nonbelievers from the Truth, so that they have a deliberate choice to make — to choose to turn toward Christ Jesus, Who will then begin to remove the veil. Praise the Lord!

Nonbelievers, who choose to reject the saving grace of Christ Jesus, come markedly closer to God's judgment, God's wrath, "as objects of wrath". Their consciences have been dimmed over time due to their sinful choices and their continued rejection of God's invitation to salvation. Their consciences probably at one time tried to scream "be prepared for destruction," but the person's continual rejection and sinful choices dim the warnings, the veil becomes more and more opaque, and Satan affectionately caresses the person's soul and gleefully whispers, "You are mine!"

2 Corinthians 4:1-4 [International Children's Bible (ICB)]

¹ God, with his mercy, gave us this work to do. So, we don't give up. ² But we have turned away from secret and shameful ways. We use no trickery, and we do not change the teaching of God. We teach the truth plainly. This is how we show everyone who we are. And this is how they can know in their hearts what kind of people we are before God.

³ The Good News that we preach may be hidden. But it is hidden only to those who are lost. ⁴ The devil who rules this world has blinded the minds of those who do not believe. They cannot see the light of the Good News — the Good News about the glory of Christ, who is exactly like God.

Q12. Does God tolerate us with "great patience"? Why?

Yes? } Why?
No? }

2 Peter 3:9 [International Children's Bible (ICB)]

The Lord is not slow in doing what he promised — the way some people understand slowness. But God is being patient with you. He does not want anyone to be lost. He wants everyone to change his heart and life.



A person would be right to ask, "Doesn't God have endless patience for us and wants no one to perish?" The question is a two-parter: the answer to the first question is no and to the second question is yes.

God definitely wants no one to perish. After all, God came to earth as a human baby to provide a pathway for people to be saved, to embrace Him, to love Him, and to spend eternity with the loving Creator of the universe. This pathway came at an incredible cost, including appalling pain, awful suffering, unmentionable humiliation, death, and Jesus' brief but unimaginable separation from God His Father and God's separation from His Son due to Jesus taking on the burden of sin for the entire world — and for you, and for me.

From God's perspective, He cannot tolerate sin. Christ Jesus grew-up, experienced all of the same kinds of temptations, sorrows, and hurts that we experience, yet did NOT sin; He was baptized, then taught and preached and served others; He was wrongly accused and bullied and scourged and killed, raised from the dead, and ascended into Heaven where He sits at the righthand of the Father — the Lord God Almighty. He suffered terribly for you, and for me, so that we, who believe in His saving grace, are redeemed, made righteous before God, justified (just-as-if we had never sinned). He wants no one to perish, but He cannot abide sin.

We humans have the choice of free-will — we can in faith embrace the loving, welcoming arms of our Savior Christ Jesus, or, either by deliberate choice or by default, the king of this world Satan. It is similar to a vote in an election; we the voters have a choice to either vote or to skip the election altogether. If we vote, we can mark our

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ballots for Jesus or for an alternative choice. Your choice is made; you may not have an opportunity to vote again. If your choice was to not vote this time, your choice is the same as casting your vote for an alternative candidate, and all alternative candidates lead to Satan. Back to the question, “Doesn’t God have endless patience for us?” The answer is no. While His patience is extraordinary, there may come a time after a person’s ‘vote’ when God simply says, “Enough is enough.” and in judgment places a permanent veil over the heart of the nonbeliever.


John 12:40 [NIV-1984]

³⁹ For this reason they could not believe, because, as Isaiah says elsewhere: ⁴⁰ "He has blinded their eyes and deadened their hearts, so they can neither see with their eyes, nor understand with their hearts, nor turn — and I would heal them." ⁴¹ Isaiah said this because he saw Jesus' glory and spoke about him.

Hebrews 3:13 [NIV-1984]

But encourage one another daily, as long as it is called Today, so that none of you may be hardened by sin's deceitfulness.

Day 4

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²³ What if he did this to make the riches of his glory known to the objects of his mercy, whom he prepared in advance for glory — ²⁴ even us, whom he also called, not only from the Jews but also from the Gentiles?

Q13. Suddenly, Paul switches from “objects of His wrath” to “objects of His mercy”. To whom is Paul referring?

Q14. The Jews were people of the Covenant. What other people-group is included/adopted? Are you included?

People-group?


Are you included? Yes? No? Why?

Q15. What is the “glory” that is referred?

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²⁵ As he says in Hosea: "I will call them 'my people' who are not my people; and I will call her 'my loved one' who is not my loved one," ^[Hosea 2:23] ²⁶ and, "It will happen that in the very place where it was said to them, 'You are not my people,' they will be called 'sons of the living God.'" ^[Hosea 1:10]


Q16. Looking at verse 25, to whom does Paul refer when he writes, "I will call them 'my people' who are not my people"?

 "The original of the prophecy in Hosea relates to the pardon and reconciliation promised to the apostate and idolatrous people of the northern kingdom [called Israel; the southern kingdom was called Judah]. It is here typically and prophetically applied to the Gentiles. Those who had ceased to belong to the chosen people, and those who had never belonged to it, were to all intents and purposes in the same position." ^[©about 1880, Ellicott's Commentary for English Readers, edited by Charles J. Ellicott. <https://biblehub.com/commentaries/romans/9-25.htm>]

Q17. Is there a promise given in verse 26 to the "people who are not my people"?

Yes? }
No? } What is the promise?

Day 5

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²⁷ Isaiah cries out concerning Israel: "Though the number of the Israelites be like the sand by the sea, only the remnant will be saved.

Q18. How would you explain this verse?

Revelation 7:1-8 ^[The Jewish Remnant]

¹ After this I saw four angels standing at the four corners of the earth, holding back the four winds of the earth to prevent any wind from blowing on the land or on the sea or on any tree. ² Then I saw another angel coming up from the east, having the seal of the living God. He called out in a loud voice to the four angels who had been given power to harm the land and the sea: ³ "Do not harm the land or the

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sea or the trees until we put a seal on the foreheads of the servants of our God.”

⁴ Then I heard the number of those who were sealed: 144,000 from all the tribes of Israel. ⁵ From the tribe of Judah 12,000 were sealed, from the tribe of Reuben 12,000, from the tribe of Gad 12,000, ⁶ from the tribe of Asher 12,000, from the tribe of Naphtali 12,000, from the tribe of Manasseh 12,000, ⁷ from the tribe of Simeon 12,000, from the tribe of Levi 12,000, from the tribe of Issachar 12,000, ⁸ from the tribe of Zebulun 12,000, from the tribe of Joseph 12,000, from the tribe of Benjamin 12,000.


²⁸ For the Lord will carry out his sentence on earth with speed and finality.”

²⁹ It is just as Isaiah said previously: "Unless the Lord Almighty had left us descendants, we would have become like Sodom, we would have been like Gomorrah.”

Q19. What happened to the cities of Sodom and Gomorrah?

Genesis 19:1, 13 [International Children’s Bible (ICB)] [God’s judgment against Sodom and Gomorrah:]

¹ The two angels . . . [said to Lot,] ¹³ We are about to destroy this city. The Lord has heard of all the evil that is here. So, he has sent us to destroy it.”

 The account of God’s judgment on the cities of Sodom and Gomorrah is recorded in Genesis 18 & 19; there are too many verses to duplicate herein.

Q20. Verse 29: Was Isaiah speaking about the Jewish people? Or others?


Yes? }
No? } Why?

Q21. After Sodom and Gomorrah were judged and received just punishment, did any descendants remain that could call Sodom or Gomorrah home?

Yes? }
No? } Why?

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Day 6

 Please pray for holy guidance and insight before you begin today's study.

Israel's Unbelief

³⁰ What then shall we say? That the Gentiles, who did not pursue righteousness, have obtained it, a righteousness that is by faith; ³¹ but Israel, who pursued a law of righteousness, has not attained it. ³² Why not? Because they pursued it not by faith but as if it were by works. They stumbled over the “stumbling stone.” ³³ As it is written: “See, I lay in Zion a stone that causes men to stumble and a rock that makes them fall, and the one who trusts in him will never be put to shame.” [Isaiah 8:14; 28:16]

Q22. Verse 32: Who/what is the “stumbling stone”?

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Psalms 118:22 [English Standard Version (ESV)]

²² The stone that the builders rejected has become the cornerstone.

Acts 4:11-12 [International Children's Bible (ICB)]

[After the Lord's ascension, Simon Peter rebuked the Jewish religious leaders:]

¹¹ Jesus is ‘the stone that you builders [the Jewish religious leaders] did not want. It has become the cornerstone.’ [Psalms 118:22]

¹² Jesus is the only One who can save people. No one else in the world is able to save us.”

Q23. How do the Jews try to attain Heaven? Are their efforts, is their strategy, successful?

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Ephesians 2:8-9 [English Standard Version (ESV)]

⁸ For by grace you have been saved through faith. And this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God, ⁹ not a result of works, so that no one may boast.

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Q24. How do people obtain righteousness?

Romans 10:6, 8-11 [NIV-1984]

⁶ But the righteousness that is by faith says . . .

^{8b} ‘The word is near you; it is in your mouth and in your heart,’ that is, the word of faith we are proclaiming: ⁹ That if you confess with your mouth, ‘Jesus is Lord,’ and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved. ¹⁰ For it is with your heart that you believe and are justified, and it is with your mouth that you confess and are saved. ¹¹ As the Scripture says, ‘Anyone who trusts in him will never be put to shame.’

James 2:24 [The Message (MSG); a paraphrase]

Is it not evident that a person is made right with God not by a barren faith but by faith fruitful in works?

Q25. What does Paul mean by “the Gentiles. . . have obtained it”? Obtained what?

Q26. What does Paul mean by “the Gentiles. . . did not pursue righteousness”?

 right·eous (rī'chəs) adj. [© 2003-2023 Farlex, Inc. <https://www.thefreedictionary.com/righteousness>]

1. Morally upright; without guilt or sin: a righteous parishioner.
2. In accordance with virtue or morality

2 Timothy 3:14-17 [NIV-1984]

¹⁴ But as for you, continue in what you have learned and have become convinced of, because you know those from whom you learned it, ¹⁵ and how from infancy you have known the holy Scriptures, which are able to make you wise for salvation through faith in Christ Jesus. ¹⁶ All Scripture is God-breathed and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting, and training in righteousness, ¹⁷ so that the man of God may be thoroughly equipped for every good work.

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