

THE GREATEST LETTER EVER WRITTEN #21

"Who Chose Who?"

Romans 9:1-13

Introduction: Skiing; green slope, blue slope, black diamond slope...

"I speak the truth in Christ – I am not lying, my conscience confirms it in the Holy Spirit – I have great sorrow and unceasing anguish in my heart. For I could wish that I myself were cursed and cut off from Christ for the sake of my brothers, those of my own race, the people of Israel. Romans 9:1-4 (NIV)

I. EIGHT GREAT PRIVILEGES OF ISRAEL:

1. *"Theirs is the adoption as sons..." (V.4)*
2. *"...theirs the divine glory" (V.4)*
3. *"...the covenants" (V.4)*
4. *"...the receiving of the law" (V.4)*
5. *"...the temple worship" (V.4)*
6. *"... the promises" (V.4)*
7. *"Theirs are the patriarchs..." (V.5)*
8. *"...and from them is traced the human ancestry of Christ, who is God over all, forever praised! Amen. (v.5)*

OBJECTOR: If God loved, fed, clothed & cared for Israel and chose them as His elect people, then God's plan has _____!

"It is not as though God's word had failed..." Romans 9:6a (NIV)

II. THREE UNCHANGING PRINCIPALS OF GOD'S WORK IN THE WORLD:

1. Relationship with God is never determined by physical _____.

"It is not as though God's word had failed. For not all who are descended from Israel are Israel. Nor because they are his descendants are they all Abraham's children. On the contrary, it is through Isaac that your offspring will be reckoned. In other words, it is not the natural children who are God's children, but it is the children of the promise who are regarded as Abraham's offspring. For this was how the promise was stated: At the appointed time I will return, and Sarah will have a son." Romans 9:6-9 (NIV)

POINT: God's promises and purposes and plans in the world are carried out not by those who are naturally born (Ishmaels), but by those who are _____ born (Isaacs).

2. Relationship with God is never determined by _____ or _____.

"Not only that, but Rebekah's children had one and the same father, our father Isaac. Yet before the twins were born or had done anything good or bad – in order that God's purpose in election might stand: not by works but by him who calls – she was told, "The older will serve the younger. Romans 9:10-12 (NIV)

3. Relationship with God is based on God's _____.

Yet before the twins were born or had done anything good or bad – in order that God's purpose in election might stand: not by works but by him who calls – she was told, "The older will serve the younger." Just as it is written: Jacob I loved, but Esau I hated. Romans 9:11-13 (NIV)

BOTTOM LINE: Because all of us are sinners from head to toe and all of us are born running from God and His offer of eternal life, God graciously reaches down from heaven and works in the hearts of _____ so that _____ are not lost.

TWO POSSIBLE RESPONSES: Get _____ and say "that isn't right" or get _____ and say "thank you Jesus!"

Closing: