

God's Faithfulness

Romans 9 - 11

Getting Started

Sometimes we talk about the "Great Mysteries" of the world. What "great mysteries" would you like to see solved? Why?

- What are UFO's, really?
- Loch Ness Monster, does she exist?
- Big Foot, why does he stay hidden?
- Why do Eskimos have so many words for snow?
- Who really shot JFK?
- Why did men leave Mars and women Venus? What were they thinking?



In the Word (The text for this week's discussion is Romans 9 – 11)

This passages deals with a number of issues which have often been contemplated by Christians. In the past theological discussions on these subjects have, at times, led to arguments, church splits, and executions. As your group begins discussing these passages you might wish to make an agreement about what you will do if you find you disagree (personally, I'd opt for something less drastic than execution, but that's just me!).

1. Look at Romans 8:28-30 and 38-39. Can you see why some (in Rome and elsewhere) would wonder about how this all works? What can separate us from God's love? What happens to those who have been called? So how does this all work with the Jews (Israel)?
2. (9:1-16) Look at Paul's description of the state of his heart when thinking of Israel. They received many privileges and yet they still rejected Jesus.
 - a. Did God somehow fail them?
 - b. Who failed?
 - c. What does it mean "For not all who are descended from Israel are Israel?"
 - d. How do the examples of Ishmael (9:7-9) and Esau (9:10-16) aid in your understanding?
3. "If I reject him, isn't that God's fault?" seems to be the objection that Paul is addressing in Romans 9:19-30.
 - a. How does the illustration of the potter and clay answer the objection?
 - b. What had the Old Testament said about Gentiles coming to God?
 - c. What had it said about many of the Jews?
 - d. When God is rejected, whose fault is that (read Romans 10:14-21)?

Application

Look again at the beginning of Romans 9. Who is that you weep over because of their rejection of God? What can you do this week to help them hear the gospel (10:14)?

Prayer Time:

Please pray for the Grand Central Church that she will faithfully reach out to the world with the good news of Jesus Christ of no condemnation! Please include our mission efforts in India, Myanmar, China, Honduras, and Papua New Guinea. Don't forget the Empty Chair!