

**Belonging to Jesus: “Will God Keep His Promises? Absolutely!”
Romans 9:1-29**

Several weeks ago I introduced a plan to help us become more like Jesus. This plan is an important guide to focus our thinking and our living. The plan looks like this:

- Look at the cross
 - Look to the Kingdom
 - Be empowered by the Spirit
 - Follow Jesus, arm in arm with each other
 - Reach the World

In Romans 8, Paul mentioned a number of promises given to the church: God works all things touching our lives for good (8:28); our present sufferings are as nothing compared to the glory God will give us (8:18); nothing will keep us from enjoying that glory in the end (8:29-30; vv. 31-39). Will God keep his promises? Absolutely! Let's look into Romans 9 for assurance.

1. Identify where Satan will attack us: _____.
(Romans 9:1-5; See Romans 10:1)

2. Trust God _____ **His promises.**
(Romans 9:6-13, 24-29)

3. Humble yourself before the _____. (Romans 9:14-23)

Day by Day in the Word

“Day by Day in the Word” is a tool we use to help us in the process of becoming more and more like Jesus and ultimately to bring glory to God. The biblical principle is: The Spirit of God uses the Word of God to bring about Christlikeness.

Monday-Tuesday

- Read Romans 9:1-5. What is causing Paul great anguish? See Romans 10:1. What is he saying in Romans 9:3 and could that actually happen? See Romans 8:31-39. What does “cursed/*anathema*” mean? See 1 Corinthians 12:3; 16:22; Galatians 1:8-9.
- This is really a question about God and whether He is going to fulfill His promises to Israel. Why is this an important question and how does it touch your life? Think of it this way: if God made promises to Israel, and didn’t fulfill them; what does that mean for the promises He made to you and me? Paul will answer this issue.
- What would it take for you and me to be so concerned about those who don’t know Jesus in a personal way? Discuss this with a friend and determine one or two ways that you could begin to see people differently, that is, the way God sees them.

Wednesday-Thursday

- Read Romans 9:6-13. How does the first part of Romans 9:6 help you understand what Paul is talking about? “But it is not as though the word of God has failed.”
- What do you learn from this passage that will help you trust God to fulfill His promises? What do you find out about the difference between natural descendants and spiritual children?
- Find out what you can from a Bible Dictionary or Study Bible about “election.” This concept can be found in Romans 9:7 (“named/reckoned”), 9:11 (“election/choice”), and Romans 9:13. What wasn’t this choice based on? What was it based on?
- The fulfillment of God’s promises depends on Him alone, not on our works. How will this help you trust Him in your daily life? Share with someone what you are learning.

Friday-Saturday

- Read Romans 9:14-23. Summarize Romans 9:15-18 to answer the question of 9:14. Summarize Romans 9:20-23 to answer the question of 9:19.
- How does the “potter” illustration help you better understand your relationship with God?
- Spend time in worshipping God through prayer, preparing yourself for Sunday’s service.