~ *INTRO* ~

THE LAST TIME WE WERE TOGETHER...

- We opened up (Rom. 9) and Paul's heart for ministry.
 - ➤ We quickly discovered several truths to help us...
 - o *Remain in Our Calling*... as Christians.

WE UNLOCKED...

- The practical benefits to walk this out:
 - 1) Don't abandon your faith (John 16:1)
 - 2) Finish the work God gives you (John 17:4)
 - 3) Remain teachable (Heb 13:17)
 - 4) Love each other (John 13:34-35)

GOD'S WORD...

- Mets us where we are AND helps us move forward...
 - As we accept His truth... He shapes our lives.

OK...

- Over the next three chapters Paul uses the Nation of Israel...
 - ➤ To picture God's all-knowing faithful love:
 - Chapter #9 = Israel's past election.
 - They were chosen by God.
 - Chapter #10 = Israel's present rejection.
 - Blinded by unbelief.
 - Chapter #11 = Israel's future restoration.
 - The veil removed at the return of Christ.

NOW...

- Today follow along as I read (Rom. 9:4-5).

IDEA #1 – BENEFITS OF FAITH

(Ps 103:2-5) NLT gives individual benefits of faith in the Lord.

- Here in (Romans)... Paul lays out <u>seven benefits</u> unique to Israel:

- 1) Adoption = Claimed as God's people (Ex. 4:22-b) NKJV

 For the church (Eph. 1:3-6) NKJV
- 2) Glory = God with His people (Ex. 40:34 & 38) NKJV

 o In the Gospels (John 1:14) NKJV
- 3) Covenants = Mosaic Covenant (Ex. 19:5) NKJV

 o The New Covenant (Heb. 8:10 & 12)
- 4) Law = Truth for the basis of justice (10-Commandments) \circ (Ex. 20)
 - The law of the spirit of life (Rom 8:2-3) NKJV
- 5) Service of God = The Tabernacle (house of God).

 (Ex. 25-30)
 - Churches service to God (Rom 12:1) NKJV
- 6) *Promises* = New covenant (Jer. 31:31)

 o And regathering (Ezk. 36:24)
- 7) Messiah = The Christ (Isa. 9:6) "unto us a Child is born"

THE TAKEAWAY...

- Don't doubt the love of God!

IDEA #2 – POSER OR PARTNER?

- Not everyone is surrendered to God.
 - ➤ Israel as a Nation rejected Christ!
 - o The Messiah came and they put Him to death.

SO... PAUL IS TEACHING THE CHURCH...

- It's NOT because of a lack of power in God's word.
 - ➤ (v.6) "taken no effect"
 - o This speaks of a ship going off course.
 - Missing a life of faith.

ABRAHAM HAD TWO SONS...

- Ismael & Isaac.

- ➤ <u>Ismael</u> was Abraham's attempt to fulfill God's promise.
 - o Abraham was presenting the work of his flesh...
 - And asked God to bless it.

BUT GOD TOLD HIM... NO!

- (Gen. 17:15-19) NKJV
- **Isaac** was God's undeserved favor...
 - > Once Abraham surrendered control.

(John 8:33-37) NKJV

- This is a scene of conflict between Jesus and the Pharisees...
 - ➤ Over this very issue Paul is writing about in (Romans).
 - o (John 8:33) *descendants* = (Grk. *Sperma*)

(v.37) N.E.T.

- "...because my teaching makes no progress among you."
- Jesus wasn't denying their <u>blood line</u> from Abraham...
 - ➤ He was calling them out on <u>being spiritually dead!</u>

TODAY WITHIN THE COMMUNITY OF FAITH...

- Any <u>verbal expressions</u> of faith...
 - ➤ With a life that <u>reject living out truth</u>...
 - o Must be rejected as DEAD!

IN THE PAST 14-YEARS OF MINISTRY...

- I've noticed a few **growing trends** in our community.
- 1) Biblical truth is not always taught in churches around here.
 - Entertainment / partial truths / crowd pleasing / & lies are popular.
 - > (2 Tim. 4:3-5) NLT
- 2) Accountability is mostly neglected.
 - (Rom. 12:5) NKJV
 - > Our choices matter in the family of faith.

HERE'S THE DANGEROUS RESULT...

- (Heb. 5:11-14) NLT

- When professing believer remains in persistent sin...
 - This indicates one of three problems:
 - a) Lack of true faith.
 - b) Corrupted faith...
 - c) Immature faith

IDEA #3 – GOD HAS CHOSEN

OUR SECTION CLOSES OFF...

- By showing the sovereignty of God's will...
 - ➤ With two illustrations:
 - 1) Abraham & Sara = Isaac over Ismael
 - 2) Isaac & Rebecca = Jacob over Esau

~ IN CLOSING ~

(John 3:16-17) NLT