

GROUP DISCUSSION

Questions for facilitating dynamic discussion

God's Strategy in Human History

Week 5: God's Strategy Regarding Blessing

Romans 9:30-32

Week of August 30, 2020

(Jeff Griffin, Senior Pastor)

In our final week of studying Romans 9, we arrived at the climax of Paul's argument. Paul had been explaining that God does not pick to save people based on Heritage or Works. Paul finally revealed, at the end of the chapter that God's condition for salvation has always been, and will always be, Faith.

Kicking it off: Jeff opened his sermon from the construction site of our new South Naperville Campus. What excites you about this new project?

Discussion:

1. Reread *Romans 9:21* Does not the potter have the right to make out of the same lump of clay some pottery for special purposes and some for common use?

Why did God have to defend His right to choose whom He will save and by what condition He will elect them?

2. Read *Jeremiah 18:1-4* This is the word that came to Jeremiah from the LORD: "Go down to the potter's house, and there I will give you my message." So I went down to the potter's house, and I saw him working at the wheel. But the pot he was shaping from the clay was marred in his hands; so the potter formed it into another pot, shaping it as seemed best to him.

How does Jeremiah's observations of the potter fit with his concluding warning found in *Jeremiah 18:11* - "So turn from your evil ways, each one of you"?

3. Reread *Romans 9:30* The Gentiles, who did not pursue righteousness, have obtained it, a righteousness that is by faith.

Indicate if the people described in this verse had Heritage (descendants of Abraham), Works (good works according to the law), or Faith (dependence on God to save).

4. Reread *Romans 9:31-32* The people of Israel, who pursued the law as the way of righteousness, have not attained their goal. Why not? Because they pursued it not by faith.

Indicate if the people described in this verse had Heritage (descendants of Abraham), Works (good works according to the law), or Faith (dependence on God to save).

5. When you were a child, did you know that "faith in Christ" was the only way to get right with God? If not, when did you learn this?
6. How would you help someone who believed that they'd end up in heaven because of their Christian heritage and moral excellence?

Wrapping It Up: Pray for the salvation of loved ones who still don't know the Lord.