**Exploring Romans**

**Lesson 12**

**Was God Wrong?**

Read Romans 9

 Memory Work: Romans 9:15, 16.

 1.a. Why do you think Paul included the next three chapters (9-11) on the nation of Israel, when in fact,

 this letter was written to Romans?

 b. If “nothing can separate us from the love of God”, then why do the Jewish people feel they are

 separated from God?

 2.a. What caused Paul such grief? Romans 9:1, 2.

 b. What did he wish for himself? Verse 3.

 c. How was his thinking similar to that of Moses in Exodus 32:32?

 3.a. If God rejected the Jews, how can Gentile confidence be secure?

 b. Does Israel’s failure mean that God’s Word has failed? Explain.

Challenge What advantages did the Jews have? Make a list.

 4.a. Were all the descendants of Abraham part of the promise? Verse 7.

 b. Who, only, was? Genesis 18:10; 21:12.

 5.a. When Isaac had twins, when did God choose Jacob. . .which says to us? Verse 11.

 b. Do you consider verse 13 to be fair? See Genesis 25:23; Malachi 1:2, 3. (What is a better word for

 fair?)

 c. If God hated Esau, was he neglected? Genesis 27:39; Genesis 36; Deuteronomy 23:7.

 d. What did God mean by “hated?”

 6.a. Paul asks a question in Romans 9:14. . .how would you answer his question?

 b. Is verse 15 a good answer. . .who said it?

Think about Does anyone deserve mercy? Verse 16.

 c. Is God’s sovereign choice based on conduct? Explain.

 7.a. From verses 17, 18, how did God use Pharaoh’s heart? See and compare Exodus 5:2; 7:13, 14, 22;

 8:15, 19, 32; 9:7,34,35.

 b. If God hardens whom He will, Romans 9:18, why blame the one who was hardened. . .who, initially, does the hardening?

 c. From verses 19-21, how does Paul answer his own questions?

 Also see: Proverbs 16:3-5.

 Isaiah 45:9, 10

 II Timothy 2: 20, 21.

 d. Some people think God is arbitrary or unfair in His dealings with people. Study Ephesians 1:1-14

 and come up with an answer.

 8.a. How does Paul include the Gentiles with Israel? Romans 9:24.

 b. What two Old Testament prophets does Paul quote? Verses 25-29.

 c. How did the Gentiles attain faith? Verses 24 and 30-32.

 d. What was Israel’s fallacy? Verse 32.

 e. What had the nation stumbled over?

 f. Who had prophesied this?

 g. Do people still stumble over this stone. . .how so?

 9. Have you experienced God’s mercy and long suffering toward you. . .have you responded in gratitude?.. . . . . .and worship?