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Valley Church

December 8 & 11, 2022
Week 29 – How Great is our God?

Review of Romans 9:1-14

Romans 9:4

Romans 9:8

Ephesians 2:17-18

Romans 9:11-13

Romans 9:22-24

Two Analogies in Romans 9:15-21

1. The _____ to harden Pharaoh's heart
 2. The _____ of the potter over the clay
- see Romans 9:30-32

God's Love for and Inclusion of the Gentiles

Romans 9:22-26

God's Love for and Mercy toward the Jews

Romans 9:27-29

God's Love for and Salvation of His Church (Jew & Gentile brought together)

Romans 9:30-33

The Big Idea:

Jesus Christ is the Cornerstone of the Church, but also a "stumbling stone" for those who reject the grace of God found in Him. Who is Jesus in your life? Is He someone you stand upon or someone you keep tripping over? Get this issue settled once and for all...

QUESTIONS FOR SMALL GROUPS AND PERSONAL REFLECTION

Personal Life

1. We might be oblivious to the rampant racism that existed between Jews and Gentiles, even in the early church. In light of the racially-charged divisions of recent times, what do we learn about fallen human beings who are prone to bigotry and prejudice?

Ponderings

2. In Romans 9, Paul is making a very loud and persuasive case that Jews and Gentiles are equal, and that in Christ they are joined as one family.

- Being as honest as possible, what kinds of prejudices do you struggle with, even if not racial? Where and how do you think these prejudices were formed?

- How does the Gospel inform and transform the way we see others who are different from us? Try to give specific examples, whether actual or hypothetical...

3. For the Jewish Christians in Rome, they had to ponder and accept the reality that it was always God's plan to include Gentiles in His family, the Church. How do you think they missed this, given that their own Scriptures told them repeatedly that they were to be a "light" to the Gentiles? (ex. Isa. 42:6; 49:6).

4. Like the Jews, God has identified New Covenant believers as those who are a "light" in the darkness. In what specific ways is your life a light in the dark places of this world? Share as honestly as you can, giving examples if possible...

Promptings

5. What if God's main purpose for your job or career was to be a light among darkness rather than just make a living? What if God's main plan for your marriage, your singleness, and every other thing about you was to be a light pointing others to His grace and truth? What needs to happen in order for you to begin living consciously from that mind set?