

Romans 9:19-33

**Pray** that God would reveal to you the truth of how finite and small we are, and that He is trustworthy, mighty, and wise.

**Read** Romans 9:19-33

**Look Closer...** The subject of Chapters 9-11 is God. However, Paul will also be concentrating on Israel, mostly talking about their unbelief. The three chapters are filled with lamentful language because Israel has not believed, but through Paul's lament he is trying to teach the church about God and the gospel.

So when we approach vv. 19-24 we have to remember that Paul is still talking about Israel. He uses very typical Jewish language to refer to the covenants like "glory" and "called". God chose Israel, Israel did not choose God, thus He "called" them into relationship with Himself. Paul is translating this reality for Israel to be similar to how Christians are called into relationship with God, in His mercy, chooses to reveal himself and we must decide to look upon the reality of the gospel and say 'yes' or 'no'.

But if God calls us like God called Israel, what about the fact that much of Israel was unfaithful, and that Jews in Paul's day, as well as ours, do not believe in God as He has revealed himself in Jesus? Was it God's fault that some of Israel did not believe? Paul has been struggling with questions like these throughout the whole book, for he knows the kinds of questions the Romans are asking (for example, see Romans 2:1-8).

The two quotes from the OT in vv. 25-26 is Paul's way of showing that it was always the plan for God to let Gentiles in, and that God has not failed in any way by allowing the Jews to walk away from Him.

**Think about it...** If you've been following along, you'd know that Paul says that the point of the Law was to lead Israel to faith. Instead, they attempted to bring God's kingdom into the world through the "works of the law." These works were not bad, they were good! For the law was meant for faith. However they did not all have faith (v. 32). The point of the law was to lead the world to seeing its deep need for God to come and work righteousness for us himself. Otherwise we could never be right with Him.

**Pray about it...** God has revealed himself to you in His righteousness, making His glory available to those who were far from Him. Praise God for the gift of faith! Faith is the very way by which we grab hold of God, who is the goal (the point) of salvation. If salvation is a hug from Jesus, faith is our embrace of Him in return. Pray in gratitude to God for that ability to hug him back!