

Who Am I to Answer Back to God?

(Romans 9)

Scripture Reading: 1 Peter 2:1-8

- A. Jesus the Christ is a living stone in the pathway of every human being.
 - 1. Some will build and base every aspect of life on him as a foundation.
 - 2. Some will reject him and stumble over him to their own destruction.
- B. You **have done**, you **are doing**, and you **will do** something in relation to this stone.

I. Paul's great concern and continued love for his fellow Jews (Romans 9:1-5)

- A. The great sorrow and unceasing anguish he feels in his heart (9:1-3)
- B. The tragedy of wasted potential (9:4-5)

II. Two examples of the "purpose of election" at work (Romans 9:6-13)

- A. Example #1: Abraham had two sons — Ishmael (from Hagar) and Isaac (from Sarah)
 - 1. There is more to being a child of God than the product of a certain fleshly family tree!
 - 2. Isaac was more than Abraham's physical child; he was a child of promise.
- B. Example #2: Isaac had two sons with Rebekah — Jacob and Esau.
 - 1. Even before they were born, God told Rebekah, "The older will serve the younger."
 - 2. Why? "In order that God's purpose of election might continue."
 - 3. More than the individual brothers, two nations are being referenced.

III. The "purpose of election" is justified (Romans 9:14-33)

- A. Illustrated by Moses and Pharaoh (9:14-18)
- B. Remember what we read in *Romans 2:6-11*.
 - 1. God does not harden humble, receptive, righteous people.
 - 2. The person God hardens is the one who has personally chosen to reject God.
 - 3. But God will be glorified by both!
- C. The potter and the clay (9:19-29)
- D. How does this impact the Gentiles? (9:30) How does this impact the Jews? (9:31-33)
- E. What, then, will **YOU** do with Jesus?