ROMANS 9 - 11
CAN GOD REALLY BE TRUSTED

Growth Groups Material
(4 studies on Romans 9-11)
Nov-Dec 2025

JANNALI
Anglican Church

Teaching Schedule

In our gatherings we will work through a 4 part series:

20-23 Nov	Romans 9:1-18
27-30 Nov	Romans 9:19-29
4-7 Dec	Romans 9:30-10:21
11-14 Dec	Romans 11:1-36

Booklet Contents

Additional Resources

We've put together some additional resources that might help you as you make your way through this series:

https://jannalianglican.org.au/romans9to11

Introduction

Can God really be trusted? This is a crucial question, for obvious reasons. We're called to put our trust in God to receive the salvation he offers us through Jesus. We're called to put our trust in God's promise that, despite everything that happens (good, bad, perplexing), He is working through all things for our good. We could go on listing all the promises God makes to us that we must learn to trust. But can God really be trusted?

This is exactly the question Paul is addressing in Romans 9-11. In the background to Paul's letter to the Romans is the co-existence and tension between Jewish and Gentile groups within the Roman church, and the loud voices of Jewish opponents to Paul and his gospel. A gospel which was all about salvation by faith apart from law, and apart from works. That gospel, and its implications has been thoroughly laid out in chapters 1-8. But to Paul's critics, this gospel, and the inclusion of the Gentiles all sounded inconsistent with what God had revealed about his plans in the Old Testament, especially His plans to bless the Israelites, His special nation. How then, would God allow a situation in which so many Jews rejected Jesus, and became excluded from salvation? It didn't add up. Paul tackles this issue head on, assuring his readers that God is doing exactly what he said he would do.

This is a part of the New Testament that is full of tricky concepts which have the potential to confuse and perhaps trouble us. Persevere in close reading and reflection! Because what we learn about God and his salvation plans in these chapters are essential to the life of faith. We will come away convinced by a humbling, but foundational truth: "God is God, and we are not!". Oh, and there's immense comfort too – God really can be trusted! Good news for anyone who trusts God to be saved.

We pray that this is a helpful series for you and your journey with Jesus!

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Study 1 | Romans 9:1-18

Introduction

1. What does the idea of God 'choosing' or 'electing' people to be saved mean to you? How do you feel when you think about it?

Read and Discuss

2. **Read Romans 9:1-5**. What is Paul so upset about?

3. **Read Romans 9:6-13**. Why might a Jewish reader of the Old Testament suggest that God's word had failed? Why is this such an important question for the reader of Romans?

4. How does Paul show that God's word has not failed?

5. **Read Romans 9:14-18.** Summarise Paul's argument about how God chooses people to belong to him? What is explicitly ruled out as a factor?

6. **In verse 15, Paul quotes from Exodus 33:19.** Skim over Exodus 32-33. What is the context of God's comment to Moses here? How does this context help us think through whether God is being unjust in choosing some and not others?

Reflect and Apply

7. Charles Spurgeon says that what we've been learning about, namely the doctrine of election (God sovereignly chooses people to be saved) is the 'most comforting doctrine of all'. How could this be so? What is comforting about it?

8. Think back to question 5 and the factors that are ruled out of God's consideration in saving people? How does this humble us? How should this affect our approach to evangelism?

9. A friend complains to you that God isn't fair because he chooses some people to be saved, but not others. How would you respond to this?

Study 2 | Romans 9:19-29

Introduction

1. Share your 'One Thing' from last weekend's teaching. Have your thoughts/feelings about God choosing people evolved over the week? Discuss what (if anything) has changed.

Read and Discuss

2. **Read Romans 9:19-29**. What is the objection Paul raises (in the shoes of his readers)? What truth has led to his objection being raised?

3. In his response Paul uses an illustration of a potter, and the clay. What is Paul's point? (Read also Isaiah 29:15-16, which Paul may be drawing upon).

4. What are the *possible* good reasons that Paul speculates might be behind God's plan to judge some and have mercy on others.

5. What point is Paul making in quoting from Hosea and Isaiah in verses 25-29? Think especially about what these verses say about the Gentiles, on the one hand, and the Jews on the other hand.

Reflect and Apply

6. How do you feel about being compared to a lump of clay that God is free to destroy or preserve?

7. What is our position before God? How should that influence our relationship with Him?

8. As a result of reading this passage, should we be more or less confident that God can save people whom we don't expect? Why?

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Study 3 | Romans 9:30-10:21

Introduction

1. In light of what we've been learning, how would you answer the question: "Who is responsible when someone isn't saved?"

Read and Discuss

2. **Read Romans 9:30-10:1-3**. What is the question Paul is now raising? What is his summary answer?

3. **Read Romans 10:4-17**. What is the difference between righteousness according to the law, and righteousness that comes by faith?

4. Where does faith come from? What are the implications of this for us, as we seek to see people saved?

5. **Read Romans 10:18-21**. Why do you think Paul uses so many quotes from the Old Testament in this section (and throughout chapters 9-11 more generally)? What point is he making with these quotations?

Reflect and Apply

6. In light of today's study, and what we've learnt from chapter 9, who was responsible for the Jewish people rejecting Jesus? Today, can people be blamed for not believing in Jesus?

7. How might established Christians fall into the same trap as the Jews did – trying to establish our own righteousness through what we do?

8. What lessons can be learnt from this passage about the heart of evangelism? What other strategies do we tend to use to try and see someone converted? Is there a place for these things? What is that place?

Study 4 | Romans 11:1-36

Introduction

1. Discuss, as far as you are able, what Romans chapters 9 and 10 have been about. What issues have been raised and addressed so far?

Read and Discuss

2. **Read Romans 11:1-10**. What is the question Paul is asking? Summarise Paul's answer to his own question.

3. **Read Romans 11:1-16.** What has been one positive outcome of the Jews rejecting Jesus?

4. What does Paul hope will happen with the Jews, as a result of Gentiles being included in salvation?

5. **Read Romans 11:17-32**. What is the concern that Paul has around the attitude (or possible attitude) of the Gentiles? What reasons does he give to steer the Gentiles away from this attitude developing?

6. What is God's ultimate plan for the Jews (see verses 25-26). What do you think this means.

7. **Read Romans 11:33-36**. This is spontaneous reflection from Paul, responding to what has come before. What stands out to you? What do you think led Paul to feel this way?

Reflect and Apply

8. How can we guard ourselves against arrogance or conceit, when it comes to thinking about how we've been saved?

9. Verses 33-36 speak to our feelings of confusion or being overwhelmed by the apparent complexity of God's plans. What is your natural reaction with you are confused or overwhelmed by God's plans? What can we learn from Paul's example.

10.   The title of this series has been 'Can God really be trusted?'. What reasons given throughout chapters 9-11 can we point to, to grow our confidence in God's trustworthiness?

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