

LESSON 9

SEARCHING FOR GOD AND MISSING JESUS

ROMANS 9:1—11:36



1 Before you became a Christian, where did you look for meaning and purpose in life? What kept you from turning to Christ sooner?



Read Romans 9:1—11:36 and the following notes:

☐ 9:1–3 ☐ 9:21 ☐ 9:31–33 ☐ 9:32 ☐ 10:3–5 ☐ 10:8–12 ☐ 10:11
☐ 10:14, 15 ☐ 10:18–20 ☐ 11:2 ☐ 11:6 ☐ 11:16–24 ☐ 11:26

2 Why is Paul so upset about the Jews' lack of response to the gospel?

3 Paul seems to be searching for possible explanations for this very troubling problem. What are some of the solutions he explores?

4 How would these solutions also apply to Gentiles?

5 If God has not given up on his chosen people, what more can he do to reach them in this day and age?

6 Why do you think God has been so patient in dealing with the Jews' stubborn resistance to the gospel?



7 Why do people look for answers to life's questions in so many different places?

8 Even when the gospel is clearly presented, many reject its saving message. How can we encourage them to accept Christ?

God's promises are forever. This is Paul's consolation for the unresponsiveness of the Jews. One day all those who belong to the true Israel will acknowledge Christ as the promised Messiah. In the meantime, God has provided wonderful rewards for the rest of his children. All who believe can have eternal life through his Son. But we must never allow our privileges as believers to make us proud or boastful—we had nothing to do with our salvation. We were saved only through God's grace, by an act of his love. And that love was first promised to those he raised up to be his holy nation. God will never forsake them, just as he will never forsake us. Rather than sitting back and basking in the warm glow of our relationship with God, we should be searching diligently for ways to help others find the only true source of everlasting life.



9 In what ways might those who have grown up in Christian families rely too heavily on their Christian heritage?

10 What are some major sidetracks and pitfalls that keep people from discovering Jesus today? How can we expose the futility of following these paths?

11 In what ways are you still trying to earn God's approval all over again?

12 What people do you feel the strongest desire to reach with the gospel?

13 What fears keep us from sharing the gospel with others?

14 Whom do you know who is currently seeking meaning, purpose, and direction in life? Try to understand his or her greatest felt needs. Find ways both to tell this person and to show him or her how Christ can meet one's deepest needs. Write down what you might say.



A What great spiritual heritage do Jews have? Describe your spiritual heritage.

B How do you deal with Paul's statements concerning God's decision to save some and not others, to harden the hearts and to shut the eyes and the ears of some?

C What made it so easy for the Jews to stumble over Jesus?

D What was Paul implying through the use of the grafting image? What possible wrong impressions, particularly among Gentile believers, was he attempting to correct?

E How can righteousness be attained? Who succeeds in being righteous? Who fails? Why?

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