ROM. 1:16

"I am not ashamed of the Gospel, because it is the power of God for the salvation of everyone who believes: first for the Jew, then for the Gentile."

UNASHAMED: GOD'S PEOPLE, ISRAEL Romans 9:1-29

VSS. 1-5

Conscience confirmed in the Holy Spirit

Why such agony in Paul's heart? Anathema (Gr.) "to devote to destruction in eternal hell"

• Agonizing over Israel who had every advantage (Vss. 4-5) and rejected God's gracious gift

VSS. 6-13

"Not all who are descended from Israel are Israel"

It's not about genealogy

Similarly, John 1:12-13 Spiritual birth, not physical birth, John 3

Vs. 8 "Children of the Promise" – Family by faith Rom. 2:28-29

Vs. 11 Again, election before birth. Not according to merit

Vs. 13 Mal. 1:2-3 Not hatred as such, but subject to God's judgment. Jacob was chosen before birth for blessing and protection

"IS GOD UNJUST?" VSS. 14-18

God chose Jacob over Esau before birth (Gen 25) Esau still enjoyed much in life (Gen 33:9; 36:1ff)

God's choice is based on His mercy, not human effort nor ambition

The suggestion that God is unjust in election underscores a gross underestimation of God's holiness and a gross overestimation of man's goodness.

It underscores way too high a view of man and way too low a view of God.

It grossly undervalues divine grace...

Hardening Pharoah? See Ex. 9:12-16

"His heart became hard" 7:13, 22; 8:15,19, 32; 9:7, 34-35

Similarly Rom. 1:24-28

VSS. 19-22

A "too big for your britches" moment.

A reminder of who you are and who He is

VSS. 23-29 The Gospel went first to the Jews – and then, in great mercy – to the Gentiles.

See 2 Pet. 3:9

"Those who were not My people will be My people." A remnant will be saved.

Had it not been for grace, Israel would have been destroyed (Sodom & Gomorrah, Ex. 18:16 – 19:29)

TO GOD'S ELECT 1 PETER 2:9-10

"...you are a chosen people, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people belonging to God, that you may declare the praises of Him who called you out of darkness into His wonderful light.

Once you were not a people, but now you are the people of God; once you had not received mercy, but now you have received mercy."