

# TRUTH UNASHAMED

A JOURNEY THROUGH THE BOOK OF ROMANS

## Part 4: The Sovereign Lord

— Week 1 —

**This weeks focus scripture:** Romans 9:1-16

**This weeks extra reading:** Colossians 1:15-20

**This weeks memory challenge:** Romans 11:36

— Study and Reflection —

**Day 1:** What is most offensive to human nature about the Gospel and the message of the New Testament? Why is this? Is this something you struggle with?

**Day 2:** Read Colossians 1:15-20 and Romans 11:36. From these passages, how would you describe the essential nature of God?

- What are the implications for people- and for you- if these passages are true?
- How do we- as believers- at times resist these attributes of God? On the other hand, how are these attributes of God a profound source of hope, peace, and courage?

**Days 3-5:** Paul's discussion regarding Israel in Romans chapters 9-11 are extremely challenging, both to understand what Paul is saying, and because of *what* Paul is saying. Read Romans 9:1-16, and consider the following.

- Considering the first eight chapters of Romans, and focusing on verses 1-5 here, why is it so important to Paul that he demonstrate that God did not fail the Jewish people? Why does this matter to us today?
- Verses 6-9 focus on the story of Issac and Ishmael, even though Ismael isn't named. Pastor Ethan asserted that here Paul is making the point that what God does is the result of His promise to mankind, not the work or purposes of mankind. To simplify further, our hope is in God's promise, not in our own work. How does this truth encourage us, and why is it at times hard for us?
- Verses 10-13 focus on the story of Jacob and Esau, and here Paul takes the further step to demonstrate that because God is sovereign, He may do anything according to His will in order to accomplish His purposes, regardless of human tradition or wisdom. Again, how may this truth encourage us, and why is it at times hard for us? Note: verse 13 is quite difficult, and must be interpreted in the broad scope of scripture, as Pastor Ethan discussed.
- Read verses 10-13, Romans 11:36, and Colossians 1:19-20. Paul's point is that the totality of God's work for and among mankind is a result of God's mercy, not anything man could desire or accomplish on our own. Why is this so important? What would be the implications for us if this were *not* true?

† Christianity's great offense

† Just what does it mean that God is GOD?

**Colossians 1:15-18**

**Romans 11:36**

If God is God, then God is SOVEREIGN.

† The matter of Israel

**Romans 9:1-5**

† The promise to Abraham

**Romans 9:6-9**

Receiving God's Grace is the result of God's PROMISE, not man's PLAN.

† Jacob and Esau

**Romans 9:10-13**

Participation in God's Grace comes from God's CALL, not our QUALIFICATIONS

† What then shall we say?

**Romans 9:14-16**

**Colossians 1:19-20**