

Transformed by Truth: A Reading Plan for Romans 9-16

This reading plan will take us through the final chapters of Romans (9-16), revealing God's sovereign plan, the beauty of salvation by grace, the call to live transformed lives, and the unity of the Church. Each day includes scripture readings, reflections, two questions for deeper thought, and a prayer.

Week of March 9-15: God's Sovereign Plan and Israel's Place in Redemption (Romans 9)

Summary: Romans 9 is one of the most challenging chapters in Scripture. Paul wrestles with the mystery of God's sovereignty and Israel's rejection of the gospel. He reminds us that salvation is by God's mercy, not human effort. Yet, even in His sovereignty, God calls us to respond in faith. This week, we will explore how God's promises remain true, how His mercy extends beyond Israel, and what it means to trust in His perfect plan.

March 9: The Heartache of Paul

Scriptures:

- Romans 9:1-8
- Genesis 15:1-6
- Deuteronomy 7:6-9
- Isaiah 55:8-11

Reflection: Paul begins with a heavy heart. Despite Israel's history as God's chosen people, many have rejected Jesus. Paul longs for them to know Christ, even saying he'd trade his salvation if it meant they would be saved. This is a powerful picture of intercessory love—Paul echoes the heart of Jesus, who wept over Jerusalem. God's promises never fail, but they are received by faith, not by lineage or effort. Like Abraham, we are called to trust in what we cannot yet see.

Questions:

- Do I carry a burden for those who don't know Christ? How does Paul's example challenge my prayers for others?
- When God's plan seems different from my expectations, do I trust that He is still good and faithful?

Prayer: Heavenly Father, give me a heart like Paul's—a heart that longs for people to know You. Help me to trust that Your promises never fail, even when I don't understand Your ways. Increase my faith to believe that You are working in my life and in the lives of those I love. Use me as an instrument of Your grace, and let me walk in humility, knowing that I, too, am saved only by Your mercy. Amen.

March 10: The Mystery of God's Mercy

Scriptures:

- Romans 9:9-18
- Exodus 33:19
- Isaiah 64:6-8
- Malachi 1:2-3

Reflection: Paul reminds us that God's mercy is His to give. He chose Isaac over Ishmael and Jacob over Esau—not because of their works but because of His purposes. This is difficult for us to grasp. We want to believe we can earn God's favor, but the truth is, **mercy is always undeserved.** God remains just and good in His choices, and our calling is to trust in His wisdom rather than question His fairness. His mercy does not negate our responsibility to respond to Him in faith.

Questions:

- How do I respond when I struggle to understand God's decisions? Do I trust His wisdom even when it challenges me?
- In what ways has God shown me mercy that I did not deserve?

Prayer: Lord, I confess that I don't always understand Your ways. But I trust that You are good, wise, and just. Thank You for Your mercy, which I did not earn. Help me to extend that same mercy to others. Instead of questioning Your fairness, let me stand in awe of Your grace. Give me a heart that surrenders to You in faith. Amen.

March 11: The Stumbling Block

Scriptures:

- Romans 9:30-33
- 1 Peter 2:6-8
- Isaiah 28:16
- Matthew 21:42-44

Reflection: Paul describes how Israel pursued righteousness through the law, but they missed the righteousness that comes by faith. They stumbled over Jesus because He wasn't what they expected. Many today still reject Jesus because He challenges our pride, our plans, and our self-reliance. But Jesus is not just any stone—He is the cornerstone. We can either build our lives on Him or trip over Him.

Questions:

- In what ways have I resisted Jesus because He challenges my expectations?
- Am I building my life on Jesus, or am I stumbling over Him?

Prayer: Jesus, You are the cornerstone. Forgive me for the times I have resisted You because You didn't fit into my plans. Help me to trust You completely, to surrender my pride, and to build my life upon You. Make me bold in sharing this truth with others. Amen.

March 12: God's Mercy for All

Scriptures:

- Romans 10:1-13
- Joel 2:32
- Acts 2:21
- John 3:16-17

Reflection: Paul declares that salvation is available to all who believe, Jew and Gentile alike. No one is beyond the reach of God's grace. Too often, we assume that people must "clean themselves up" before they come to Christ. But the gospel is clear—we don't achieve righteousness; we receive it. The only requirement for salvation is calling on the name of Jesus in faith.

Questions:

- Have I placed conditions on God's grace for myself or others?
- Who in my life needs to hear that salvation is available to them right now?

Prayer: Father, thank You that Your mercy is for all who call on You. Help me never to add to the gospel or make people feel unworthy of Your grace. Give me opportunities to share this message with boldness. Thank You for saving me, not because of my works, but because of Your great love. Amen.

March 13: The Beautiful Feet of the Messenger

Scriptures:

- Romans 10:14-17
- Isaiah 52:7
- Matthew 28:18-20
- John 20:21

Reflection: Paul emphasizes the importance of sharing the gospel. Faith comes by hearing, and hearing through the Word of Christ. The gospel is meant to be shared. We are not saved to sit still but to go. We are all sent ones, carrying the most beautiful message to a world in desperate need of hope.

Questions:

- Am I actively sharing the gospel, or have I been passive?
- What holds me back from sharing Jesus with others?

Prayer: Lord, let my feet be beautiful in Your sight. Give me the boldness to share the good news of Jesus, not just with my words but with my life. Open doors for me to speak of Your love, and help me walk in obedience wherever You send me. Amen.

March 14: The Grafted Branches

Scriptures:

- Romans 11:11-24
- John 15:1-8
- Ephesians 2:11-22
- Galatians 3:26-29

Reflection: Paul describes how Gentiles have been "grafted in" to God's family. We are now part of the people of God, not by birthright but by grace. This should not make us proud—it should humble us. We were brought in by mercy, and we must remain rooted in Christ.

Questions:

- Am I abiding in Jesus, or am I relying on my own strength?
- How does knowing I was "grafted in" change the way I see salvation?

Prayer: Jesus, You are the true vine. Keep me rooted in You. Help me never to take Your grace for granted but to live in a way that honors You. Thank You for grafting me into Your family. Let my life bear fruit for Your glory. Amen.

March 15: The Unfailing Love of God

Scriptures:

- Romans 11:33-36
- Psalm 136:1-3
- Lamentations 3:22-23
- 1 John 3:1

Reflection: God's love is beyond our comprehension, yet He has made it known through Jesus. His mercy is undeserved, His grace is unending, and His plans are unstoppable.

Questions:

- How does resting in God's love change the way I live?
- In what ways can I respond to His love this week?

Prayer: Father, I stand in awe of Your love. Thank You for choosing me, saving me, and keeping me. Let my life be a response of worship to Your grace. Amen.