

Romans 9:1-5
The People of the Gospel

- I. The advantages of the people of the Gospel.
- A. The advantages were to the people of Israel.
1. Verse 4: the advantages were to those who are Israelites.
 2. The advantages were to those who were kinsmen of Paul “according to the flesh...”
- B. The adoption is to them.
1. They were God’s peculiar or special people.
 2. They had been called out of Ur of the Chaldees through Abraham and God had cared for them through the centuries.
 - a. Exodus 4:22-23: ‘... **Then you shall say to Pharaoh, 'Thus says the LORD," Israel is My son, My first-born. So I said to you, 'Let My son go, that he may serve Me...'**
 - b. They were brought into a relationship with God in order to serve or worship Him.
 - c. They were brought into a relationship with God only by His grace.
- C. The glory is to them.
1. When God brought Israel out of bondage in Egypt, His glory was with them in the desert.
 - a. The Shekinah glory cloud was with them.
 - b. God was Immanuel – God with us.
 2. His glory was with them in the Tabernacle and in Solomon’s Temple.
- D. The covenant promises were to Israel.
1. Paul speaks of covenants (plural).
 2. The covenant promise to Abraham.

Gen 17:1-8: **Now when Abram was ninety-nine years old, the LORD appeared to Abram and said to him, "I am God Almighty; Walk before Me, and be blameless. "And I will establish My covenant between Me and you, And I will multiply you exceedingly." And Abram fell on his face, and God talked with him, saying, "As for Me, behold, My covenant is with you, And you shall be the father of a multitude of nations. "No longer shall your name be called Abram, But your name shall be Abraham; For I will make you the father of a multitude of nations. "And I will make you exceedingly fruitful, and I will make nations of you, and kings shall come forth from you. And I will establish My covenant between Me and you and your descendants after you throughout their generations for an everlasting covenant, to be God to you and to your descendants after you. And I will give to you and to your descendants after you, the land of your sojournings, all the land of Canaan, for an everlasting possession; and I will be their God."**
 3. The covenant promise to Isaac.

Gen 17:19-21: **But God said, "No, but Sarah your wife shall bear you a son, and you shall call his name Isaac; and I will establish My covenant with him for an everlasting covenant for his descendants after him. And as for Ishmael, I have heard you; behold, I will bless him, and will make him fruitful, and will multiply him exceedingly. He shall become the father of twelve princes, and I will make him a great nation. But My covenant I will establish with Isaac, whom Sarah will bear to you at this season next year."**
 4. The covenant promise to Jacob – Israel.

Gen 28:12-14: **“And (Jacob) had a dream, and behold, a ladder was set on the earth with its top reaching to heaven; and behold, the angels of God were ascending and descending on it. And behold, the LORD stood above it and said, "I am the LORD, the God of your father Abraham and the God of Isaac; the land on which you lie, I will give it to you and to your descendants. Your descendants shall also be like the dust of the earth, and you shall spread out to the west and to the east and to the north and to the south; and in you and in your descendants shall all the families of the earth be blessed.”**

- E. The giving of the Law was to Israel.
 - 1. The Law revealed to Israel what God was like and what He required for salvation.
 - 2. The Law was given to drive them and us, to Christ (Galatians 3:24).
- F. The service was to Israel.
 - 1. The word means service in the Temple.
 - a. The Temple service pointed to Christ.
 - b. Everything about the Tabernacle and the Temple pointed to Christ
 - c. Hebrews teaches that the sacrificial system pointed to the High Priest who would sacrifice Himself for the sins of His people.
 - 2. The word service is the equivalent of the Hebrew word used in Exodus 8:1 “...**Let My people go, that they may serve Me...**”
 - 3. God saves people that they might serve/worship Him.
- G. The promises were to Israel.
 - 1. Those promises began in Genesis 3:15.
 - 2. The promises of a Messiah who would save His people were confirmed by God in the resurrection.
- H. The fathers were an advantage to Israel.
 - 1. They had received the promises of God to them **and** their descendants.
 - 2. God spoke to His people **through** them.
 - 3. God blessed His people **through** them.

II. Who are the people of the Gospel?

- A. In one sense, they are Israelites, the kinsmen of Paul according to the flesh.
 - 1. Israel according to the flesh had all the advantages that are listed by Paul.
 - 2. The people of the Gospel are those who have an advantage because of their relationship to God.
 - a. Yet, Paul says in verse 6: “...**they are not all Israel who are descended from Israel...**”
 - b. Simply being descended from Abraham did not mean you were a **true** Israelite.
- B. In one sense, the people of the Gospel are those who are in the visible church.
 - 1. Those who are members of a Bible believing church have the advantage of being in a relationship to God.
 - a. Children in the church have the advantage of believing parents.
 - b. Members in the church have the advantage of the care and prayers of other members.
 - c. Those who are in the church have the advantage of hearing about the marvelous work of God’s grace through Jesus Christ.
 - 2. Yet, just as in Israel, not all who are in the church are saved; not all are in a saving relationship with Jesus Christ.
 - 3. Advantages count for nothing toward salvation.
 - a. You may have Christian parents.
 - 1) They are an advantage because they bring you up in the nurture and admonition of the Lord.
 - 2) They can not save you.
 - b. You may have a good Christian education and know much about the Bible and believe that God is One.
 - 1) Your knowledge will not save you.
 - 2) James 2:19: **You believe that God is one. You do well; the demons also believe, and shudder.**
 - c. You may be a member of a good church.
 - 1) Your membership will not save you.
 - 2) Just as being a member of the nation of Israel did not save many of the Israelites.
 - d. You may participate in the sacraments.
 - 1) Baptism will not save you.
 - 2) Communion will not save you.
 - 3) Baptism and Passover did not save the Israelites.

4. Only one thing will save you – complete surrender of yourself to serve Jesus Christ.

5. Boice illustration.

III. The people of the Gospel are those who serve/worship Jesus Christ.

A. Saving adoption is adoption in Christ.

1. Gal 3:7: **Therefore, be sure that it is those who are of faith who are sons of Abraham.**

2. Gal 3:29: **And if you belong to Christ, then you are Abraham's offspring, heirs according to promise.**

B. True glory is to those who are in Christ.

1. 2 Corinthians 3:18: **But we all, with unveiled face beholding as in a mirror the glory of the Lord, are being transformed into the same image from glory to glory , just as from the Lord, the Spirit.**

2. 1 Peter 5:10-11: **And after you have suffered for a little while, the God of all grace, who called you to His eternal glory in Christ, will Himself perfect, confirm, strengthen and establish you. To Him be dominion forever and ever. Amen.**

C. True service is service to God in sacrifice.

1. Rom 12:1-2: **I urge you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, to present your bodies a living and holy sacrifice, acceptable to God, which is your spiritual service of worship. And do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, that you may prove what the will of God is, that which is good and acceptable and perfect.**

2. Heb 12:28: **Therefore, since we receive a kingdom which cannot be shaken, let us show gratitude, by which we may offer to God an acceptable service with reverence and awe.**

D. The promises are to those who are in Christ.

1. Gal 3:29: **And if you belong to Christ, then you are Abraham's offspring, heirs according to promise.**

2. James 1:12: **Blessed is a man who perseveres under trial; for once he has been approved, he will receive the crown of life, which the Lord has promised to those who love Him.**

3. 1 John 2:25: **And this is the promise which He Himself made to us: eternal life.**