

SERMON

Justification: God, The Chooser

GOOD Morning OIC,

JUSTIFICATION is the declaration by God that we are no longer guilty but we are made righteous on the basis of Jesus' death on The Cross to buy OUR eternal forgiveness. **OUR JUSTIFICATION** is according to God's Plan: **Before Time Began - In Time - After Time is No More**, as revealed in the Bible. Last month, I attempted to bring out how the Bible tells us we can be confident that before time began, we Christians are "The Chosen."

On February 18th my closing paragraphs from Romans connects "The Chosen" with those who God looks favorably on, such as Moses, the Shepherds, and all both Jew and Gentile Christians. Today, I will give further details, as Paul did, on God the Sovereign King of the Universe, who creates all people, those He chose, and those He did not choose.

As usual, I will cross reference verses in Roman Chapter 9 to illustrate many of Paul's statements by other verses in the Bible. **The greatest heresies in the Church have been theologies or doctrines that never proved the Bible with the Bible.** So please bear with me to make connections to assure God's Truth. If it seems I am wandering from one part of the Bible to another; please wander with me. Please think through the connections between one Scripture to another with me. Please try to look at my Message as a *Great Adventure with God's Word*.

Let us review God's clear statement to Moses on His Sovereign choice of people on Earth, in **(Romans 9.15)**. *For God said to Moses, "I will show mercy to anyone I choose, and I will show compassion to anyone I choose."* Paul has here quoted God's conversation with Moses from **(Exodus 33.15-20)** *Then Moses said, "If you don't personally go with us, don't make us leave this place. 16 How will anyone know that you look favorably on me—on me and on your people—if you don't go with us? For your presence among us sets your people and me apart from all other people on the earth." 17 The LORD replied to Moses, "I will indeed do what you have asked, for I look favorably on you, and I know you by name." 18 Moses responded, "Then show me your glorious presence." 19 The LORD replied, "I will make all my goodness pass before you, and I will call out my name, Yahweh {I AM}, before you. For I will show mercy to anyone I choose, and I will show compassion to anyone I choose.*

In the above verses, **(Exodus 33.15-16)**, note how Moses wisely pleaded with God to show His favor so that God would be glorified by the praises of men, even His enemies, on Earth. Moses knew that only God's favor including revelations of God's Glory, could set Israel apart from the other nations. Moses' relationship with God was personal. The Lord said **I know you by name**. Dear OIC Christians, God knows your names as well! When Moses heard the LORD say that He looks favorably on him, Moses requested to see more of God's Glory, even His Presence. Moses had seen much of God's Glory.

Moses saw and participated in the many miracles by God to deliver His chosen people, Israel, from Pharaoh's bondage in Egypt. The point here is that Moses was not hesitant to use his right standing with God to ask to receive *more blessings*. This is also seen in the Newer Testament in **(2 Peter 3.18/NLV-New Life Version)** *Grow in the loving-favor that Christ gives you. **Learn to know our Lord Jesus Christ better. He is the One Who saves. May He have all the shining-greatness {doxa/Greek, Glory} now and forever. Let it be so.*** Here we see instructive words from Peter: Grow in loving-favor, learn to know Jesus better, Jesus saves, to Jesus belongs all the shining-greatness or Glory. No matter how content Moses was with his relationship with God, he wanted more of God, that is, to see God's Glory.

As I have been preaching, God is not displeased when His Children ask Him to cause them to experience more of His Glory. You might think that it is better to believe in Jesus without revelations of God's glory. **Yes, to come to faith** as Jesus said in **(John 20.29)** *Then Jesus told him, "You believe because you have seen me. Blessed are those who believe without seeing me."* But I am preaching that Christians **who have already come to Believe without seeing Jesus** to ask *more* of God's glory not only for our own encouragement; but also, **and please remember this dear brothers and sisters in Christ**, for the sake of our parents, friends, neighbors, Osaka, and Japan! Here in Japan, it is just as Moses said to God in **(Exodus 33.16)** *For your presence among us sets your people and me apart from all other people on the earth."* Let me repeat again, asking for God's glory in your life is not to become a Christian, but **as an already born-again Christian, who knows he has been chosen by the God Who Chooses.**

TAKEAWAY #1 As Paul's Letter to the Romans, especially in Chapter 8, has taught us, God is pleased to reveal His Glory to the people He has chosen. The shepherds at Jesus' Birth, Abraham, Isaac, Jacob, Moses, and all born-again Christians were and are now seen in God's favor. We Christians are His chosen just as much as Moses was and like Moses, God knows us all by name. Our desire to receive God's Glory here on earth is so that more people will Believe that we are a people set apart to show forth Jesus' Praise and Glory. Moses, like a humble child, believed God and asked to see God's Presence. For the sake of the lost souls around us, if we ask, God will do something good to answer our prayers.

(Romans 9.16-18) *16 So it is God who decides to show mercy. We can neither choose it nor work for it. 17 For the Scriptures say that God told Pharaoh, "I have appointed you for the very purpose of displaying my power in you and to spread my fame throughout the earth." 18 So you see, God chooses to show mercy to some, and he chooses to harden the hearts of others so they refuse to listen.*

Now we see the Bible reveals the negative side of **foreknew, predestined, called, justified and glorified** as listed in **(Romans 8.29-30/NASB)** *And we know that God causes all things to work together for good to those who love God, to those who are called according to His purpose. 29 For those whom He **foreknew**, He also **predestined** to become conformed to the image of His Son, so that He would be the firstborn among many brothers and sisters; 30 and these whom He **predestined**, He also **called**; and these whom He called, He also **justified**; and these whom He **justified**, He also **glorified**.* We can see Pharaoh's mean nature of slavery and genocide of Israelite babies for fear of open rebellion. There was no such attitude nor actions

by them to deserve such prejudice. How men assert their free will within God's sovereign rule of the Universe, is beyond our understanding. But it is clear what God said. He had appointed Pharaoh to become a powerful king in the lands of Northern Africa and the mid-East so that God would be *“displaying My power in you and to spread My fame throughout the earth.”* Therefore in **(Romans 9.18)** we see God is the **God who Chooses** who He will show His mercy to. This is a statement with no room for rebuttal or argument. I think that even very committed Christians **can feel** they don't want to believe this declaration by God about Himself. Beware of your feelings, saints. We who **have been Justified by Faith in Jesus' sacrifice to purchase our forgiveness, our right standing or position with God, should be nothing but “thankful” that we are His Chosen people. The fact that we do believe proves that we have been chosen by Him before time began.** I expect that the strong sense of unnaturalness to our human reasoning by these Scriptures may illicit fear. That fear is from Satan, not your Loving Heavenly Father.

(Romans 9.19-20) *19 Well then, you might say, “Why does God blame people for not responding? Haven't they simply done what he makes them do?” 20 No, don't say that. Who are you, a mere human being, to argue with God? Should the thing that was created say to the one who created it, “Why have you made me like this?”* Paul is not afraid to bring up the **“Natural”** human argument against God that we all might think about as well. As I shared in my last Message from **(Genesis 6.6-8)** *So the LORD was sorry he had ever made them and put them on the earth. It broke his heart. 7 And the LORD said, “I will wipe this human race I have created from the face of the earth. Yes, and I will destroy every living thing—all the people, the large animals, the small animals that scurry along the ground, and even the birds of the sky. I am sorry I ever made them.” 8 But Noah found favor with the LORD.*

TAKEAWAY #2 It is vital and very important that we remember that if God had at the time, just before “Noah found favor in God's sight,” or at any time in the future, destroyed Mankind, the product of His work in Creation, He would still be Holy and Good. All dealings toward Mankind besides complete oblivion and destruction are only because of His Mercy. This correct view of our God and Saviour is a fact that puts the 9th Chapter of Romans in a more true and understandable light.

In human terms, we find it reasonable for an Artist to destroy his painting for if it has too many “bad brush strokes” or “sloppiness” to his exacting eyes. Well, Paul chooses a potter like those in Imari, Japan for his example. We see in **(Romans 9.21-22)** *21 When a potter makes jars out of clay, doesn't he have a right to use the same lump of clay to make one jar for decoration and another to throw garbage into? 22 In the same way, even though God has the right to show his anger and his power, he is very patient with those on whom his anger falls, who are destined for destruction.*

These verses in the Bible are a great answer to the people who complain that God should destroy all evil in this world. **(v.22),** *he is very patient with those on whom his anger falls, who are destined for destruction.* God's patience with those who are destined for destruction reveals a world clearly displaying “good” and “evil.” Just as the LORD said to Pharaoh in **(Romans 9.17)** *“I have appointed you for the very purpose of displaying my power in you and to spread my fame throughout the earth.”* **In (Romans 9.23/NASB)**

23 He does this to make the riches of his glory shine even brighter on those to whom he shows mercy, who were prepared in advance for glory. **That is us, dear Christians at OIC!** Newly Born-Again Christians make a statement to the whole world that brings glory to God. They have been “transformed” by Faith in Christ. They become a testimony that God displayed His power, though surrounded by the many Pharaohs *of our age* who reject Jesus and go from evil to evil. These *Pharaohs* are sinners “*who are destined to destruction*” and are tools for God to exhibit His Glory in those *who were prepared in advance for glory*. The comparison is a glaring and obvious statement by **the God who Chooses**.

Another understandable reason for God's keeping evil on earth is that sinners who are *apparently* destined to destruction, as the Devil is, can be a wake-up call, an alarm signal, to those who are destined to Justification, ***upon those whom he considers fit to receive his mercy.*** This moves them to seek a Saviour, and there is only One. **PLEASE NOTE:** I used the word *apparently destined to destruction*. Only God knows those who really ***are destined for destruction.*** We cannot really tell! **We are not God.** We could not handle that knowledge if we knew it! Jesus does not burden us to handle it. For in **(2 Timothy 2.19/NASB)** *Nevertheless, the firm foundation of God stands, having this seal: “The Lord knows those who are His;” and, “Everyone who names the name of the Lord is to keep away from wickedness.”*

The GOD who Chooses and The God who Desires. **But, Pastor Bruce what about God wanting none to perish?** We see Paul said this in his instruction to his student Timothy in **(1 Timothy 2.1-4/NASB)** *2 First of all, then, I urge that requests, prayers, intercession, and thanksgiving be made on behalf of all people, 2 for kings and all who are in authority, so that we may lead a tranquil and quiet life in all godliness and dignity. 3 This is good and acceptable in the sight of God our Savior, 4 who wants (thelo/Greek) all people to be saved and to come to the knowledge of the truth.* We must pray for all people, so that those who are ***Chosen by God*** will be saved.

My answer to this difficult question is that God's desire for all people to be saved cannot override His Choosing who would be saved before TIME began. The Greek in **(1 Timothy 2.4/NASB)** reveals this as above for ***thelo*** is a verb which means *to wish, want, be inclined to, prefer, or rather that.* This is the sense of desire, not necessarily the fact of what will occur, for this verb is seen in **(1 Corinthians 14.19/NASB)** *nevertheless, in church I prefer (thelo) to speak five words with my mind so that I may instruct others also, rather than ten thousand words in a tongue.* This word, *thelo*, must mean the same thing in both passages. Therefore, God wants or desires people to be saved. God does not always get what He wants!

Since we Christians are today the only Body of Christ on Earth, we must commit ourselves to what God “desires” not necessarily to what He has predestined. The same Apostle who wrote Romans Chapter 9 called himself a “love slave” and still a “friend” of Jesus. Paul knew that not all would be saved, yet his debt was not to God, but to men not yet saved. He said this of his mission to evangelize in **(Romans 1.14/AMP)** *I have a duty to perform and a debt to pay both to Greeks and to barbarians [the cultured and the uncultured], both to the wise and to the foolish.* Therefore, we are called to “stand between” God and the “lost” to plead for their salvation in prayer and preach to them the salvation message and not to determine

which ones in our audience are the not-chosen. Only born-again Christians know for themselves that they are the **Chosen**.

TAKEAWAY #3 We must evangelize the whole world, not just those who WE consider *not destined for destruction*. Many Christians reject the truth in *The God who Chooses* in Romans 9 because they think they are supposed to discern or know what only God knows, which ones are the people *who are destined for destruction!* We are commanded to Not only to evangelize, but to pray for people *who are destined for destruction!*

(ROMANS 9.25-26/NASB) as He also says in Hosea: “I will call those who were not My people, ‘My people,’ And her who was not beloved, ‘beloved.’” {from Hosea 2.23} 26 “AND IT SHALL BE THAT IN THE PLACE WHERE IT WAS SAID TO THEM, ‘YOU ARE NOT MY PEOPLE,’ THERE THEY SHALL BE CALLED SONS OF THE LIVING GOD.” {from Hosea 1.10}

All Christians are these God would call “My people,” chosen people. For many years, the Jewish Nation was commanded by God to consider the Gentiles *unclean* and to stay separated from them. Yet in Hosea, God is referring to the Gentiles, the unclean race of sinners outside the Family of Abraham, *not My people*. And similarly also: He says in Hosea: ‘I will call them my people, who were not my people, and her beloved, who was not beloved’ {from Hosea 2.23}. ‘And it shall come to pass in the place where it was said to them, You are not my people, there they will be called sons of the living God’ {from Hosea 1.10} Thus Hosea is prophesying the salvation of Chosen Gentiles, as well as their glorious future as *sons of the living God*.

(Romans 9.27-29/NASB) 27 Isaiah cries out concerning Israel, “THOUGH THE NUMBER OF THE SONS OF ISRAEL MAY BE LIKE THE SAND OF THE SEA, ONLY THE REMNANT WILL BE SAVED; 28 FOR THE LORD WILL EXECUTE HIS WORD ON THE EARTH, THOROUGHLY AND QUICKLY.” 29 And just as Isaiah foretold: “IF THE LORD OF ARMIES HAD NOT LEFT US DESCENDANTS, WE WOULD HAVE BECOME LIKE SODOM, AND WOULD HAVE BEEN LIKE GOMORRAH.”

The Apostle Paul reminds the Roman churches, in particular the Jewish listeners, that the history of the nation of Israel declares a story of unfaithfulness. The Jews would know that Paul was referring to quotes of the prophet Isaiah. They would recall **(Isaiah 1.21a/NASB)** *How the faithful city {Jersuaalem} has become a harlot {prostitute}*. Also, Isaiah's analogy to **THE SONS OF ISRAEL** as Sodom and Gomorrah in **(Romans 9.29, Isaiah 1.9/NASB)**, is a warning of complete destruction of the Northern Jewish Nation, Israel. Isaiah's rebukes center more on greed, robbing the poor and total sinful living from open rebellion against the LORD. But God's calling Israel *Sodom and Gomorrah*, reveals a level of corruption moving God to such great wrath. (Genesis 19.24/NASB) says, *Then the Lord rained brimstone and fire on Sodom and Gomorrah from the Lord out of heaven*. Paul, and his Jewish audience at Rome knew about the other fiery prophet, Jeremiah. He similarly warned the Southern Jewish nation, Judah. This, like Isaiah, communicated God seeing His People as a *harlot or prostitute nation*.

A brief note on Israel becoming two nations. This split was the Lord's punishment on King David's adultery with Bathsheba. In (2 Samuel 12.9-10/NASB) **9** *Why have you despised the word of the LORD, by doing evil in His sight? You have struck and killed Uriah the Hittite with the sword, you have taken his wife as your wife, and you have slaughtered him with the sword of the sons of Ammon. 10* Now then, the sword shall never leave your house, because you have despised Me and have taken the wife of Uriah the Hittite to be your wife.' This "sword" led to the division of the single nation of Israel into the Northern Kingdom, Israel, and the Southern Kingdom, Judah.

Each kingdom had its own king. Most of these kings rebelled against the LORD, and the people followed them in their sins of *spiritual harlotry, spiritual prostitution*. God put very specific accusations in the mouth of the prophet Jeremiah to call out Judah for these sins. About 600 B.C., he was sent to tell Israel why God refused to show His love to their land, *The Defiled Land*, defiled by their worshiping false gods. Then the people would turn to Him and ask for a *blessing on their land!* In (**Jeremiah 3.1-3**) {in poetic form}

3 God says, "*If a husband divorces his wife*

And she leaves him

And becomes another man's wife,

Will he return to her again?

Would that land not be completely defiled?

But you are a prostitute with many lovers;

Yet you turn to Me," declares the LORD.

2 "*Raise your eyes to the bare heights and see;*

Where have you not been violated?

You have sat for them by the roads

Like an Arab in the desert,

*And you have defiled a land With **your prostitution** and your wickedness.*

3 *Therefore the showers have been withheld,*

And there has been no spring rain.

*Yet you had **a prostitute's forehead;***

You refused to be ashamed.

Prostitutes were stoned to death under the Older Testament Law. Adultery, also required stoning to death, but God's anger at the nation Israel is stronger and more deeply felt by Him as a rejected Husband, rejected by His wife Israel. God invented marriage and the romance between men and women intended to lead to marriage. God's mercy with sins by individuals, *such as King David's adultery with Bathsheba, including the murder of her husband, involved strict punishment*. But his repentance was from his heart and the relationship was restored between David and the Lord. But, as I mentioned above, David's punishment was the dividing of the nation kingdom he ruled over with the Lord. So we see the Lord is expressing His Marriage to His Nation has been defiled by His people.

This *heart break to the Lord* reminds me of a popular romantic song in America in the 1960's titled *Your lips may be near, but where is your heart*. If anyone here has ever had their heart broken by a failed romantic relationship, or even worse, by an unfaithful husband or wife, then you know how God felt. Yes, God has feelings too. He married His nation Israel after creating *her* from one man, Abraham. This is why He gave His prophets the metaphor or image of harlotry or prostitution to describe the sins of His bride the Jewish nation. This explains Paul's choosing Isaiah's pronounced judgment regarding *rebellion and spiritual adultery or prostitution by Israel, the Northern Kingdom*, in **(Romans 9.28)** *FOR THE LORD WILL EXECUTE HIS WORD ON THE EARTH, THOROUGHLY AND QUICKLY.*” Isaiah warned the Jews that their spiritual prostitution would lead to a sudden judgment. It came with the sudden invasion and defeat of the Jews both in the Northern Kingdom, Israel; and the Southern Kingdom, Judah, by foreign armies.

Also Note: Someone may ask seeing God's anger at Israel's sins: Pastor Bruce, when I struggle against sin should I worry that I will lose my salvation? NO. We see in **(Psalm 73.27)** *those who are far from You will perish*. The Christian life is from *faith to faith and from glory to glory* as I preached last autumn. As long as you sincerely try to stay close to Jesus your Saviour in an honest *relationship*, *His grace will be sufficient for you*. Remember the Jews were trying to stay close to other gods. If you go back to seeking other gods, then you are walking into danger!

(Romans 9.29/NASB) *And just as Isaiah foretold: “IF THE LORD OF ARMIES HAD NOT LEFT US DESCENDANTS, WE WOULD HAVE BECOME LIKE SODOM, AND WOULD HAVE BEEN LIKE GOMORRAH.”* Here, the prophet is sadly, and in true heart pain, expressing that God's justified wrath should mean total destruction of the Jews as if they were “*LIKE SODOM, AND WOULD HAVE BEEN LIKE GOMORRAH.*”

(Romans 9.30-33/NASB) **30** *What shall we say then? That Gentiles, who did not pursue righteousness, attained righteousness, but the righteousness that is by faith; 31 however, Israel, pursuing a law of righteousness, did not arrive at that law. 32 Why? Because they did not pursue it by faith, but as though they could by works. They stumbled over the stumbling stone, 33 just as it is written:*

“BEHOLD, I AM LAYING IN ZION A STONE OF STUMBLING AND A ROCK OF OFFENSE, AND THE ONE WHO BELIEVES IN HIM WILL NOT BE PUT TO SHAME.”

IT'S ALL ABOUT JESUS – is He a sanctuary or a stone of stumbling to you? The following Bible texts confirm the Apostle Paul's summary of the state and problem with the Jewish Nation when Christ came down from Heaven. The Older Testament prophet about 700 B.C. as Paul quoted in **(Isaiah 8.14/NASB)** **prophesied:** *Then He will become a sanctuary; But to both houses of Israel {Northern and Southern Kingdoms}, He will be a stone of stumbling and a rock of offense, And a snare and a trap for the inhabitants of Jerusalem.* Every Christian finds that Jesus is our “*sanctuary!*” The definition of *sanctuary* (Oxford/Google Dictionary) **refuge or safety from pursuit, persecution, or other danger.** We ran to Jesus for **safety** when we realized our sinfulness, our lost-ness, our deserving God's wrath, and often, our utter impotence against the murderous Devil. The Jews kept running to the LAW, especially that of Moses, that is, the Ten Commandments and not to the Lord Himself. When 700 years after Isaiah's

prophecy Jesus appeared, they ran away from Him too, their Messiah. As the Apostle John wrote in **(John 1.11)** *He came to His own, and His own people did not accept Him.*

As I preached on 12 November 2023: “Paul reminds his audience that the Lord God Almighty was teaching His pupil Abraham a new concept on planet Earth: *Salvation by Faith and imputed Righteousness*. It is simply but powerfully stated in **(Romans 4.3, Genesis 15.6/NASB)**: *What does Scripture say? 'Abraham believed God, and it was credited to him as righteousness.'* So again, when Jesus comes to Earth, we understand how God cries out to the Jews who continued rigorous legal behavior in His name: *Where is your heart?* It should have been where Abraham's heart remained his whole life, trusting God's love and promises. Thus, the Apostle Paul concludes in **(Romans 9.32/NASB)**: *32 Why? Because they did not pursue it by faith, but as though they could by works. They stumbled over the stumbling stone.* They were totally contrary to the lessons God taught His first pupil in the School of Faith, Abraham! This didn't get better, but worse, by the time God sent His Son. In **(1 Peter 2.8, Isaiah 8.14/NASB)** *'and, "A STONE OF STUMBLING AND A ROCK OF OFFENSE"; for they stumble because they are disobedient to the word, and to this they were also appointed.'* Thus we see that both Paul and Peter remind their audiences of that prophesy by Isaiah that it IS ALL ABOUT JESUS, *He will be a stone of stumbling and a rock of offense, And a snare and a trap for the inhabitants of Jerusalem.* Also both Paul and Peter believed in **the God who chooses, and predestines both ways** for Peter says *they are disobedient to the word, and to this they were also appointed.* **(1 Peter 2.8/NASB).**

(Romans 9.33/NASB) *just as it is written: "BEHOLD, I AM LAYING IN ZION A STONE OF STUMBLING AND A ROCK OF OFFENSE, AND THE ONE WHO BELIEVES IN HIM WILL NOT BE PUT TO SHAME."*

Oh Glorious God who gave us His Son. I don't know how to define a *shame culture*, maybe the strict traditions in this country make that so. But forget the culture! For shame is nothing when compared to shame before God. This is a frightening thought! But for any sinner anywhere on Planet Earth WHO BELIEVES IN HIM {JESUS} WILL NOT BE PUT TO SHAME.” **(Romans 9.33/NASB)** This refers to standing naked, clothed only in the righteousness of Jesus, before the Holy Throne of Almighty God *without shame*. As Job said in **(Job 1.21/NASB)** *He said, "Naked I came from my mother's womb, And naked I shall return there. {after this life on earth} The Lord gave and the Lord has taken away. Blessed be the name of the Lord."* In **(Galatians 3.26-27/NASB)** *26 For you are all sons and daughters of God through faith in Christ Jesus. 27 For all of you who were baptized into Christ have clothed yourselves with Christ. for all of you who were baptized into Christ have clothed yourselves with Christ.* We Christians may be put to shame by people on earth, but our being Chosen to believe in Jesus by the **God Who Chooses**, guarantees that we will feel no shame when we appear before the Throne of God in Heaven.

As we saw the sins of the Jewish Nations – Do you feel that you are part of the Kingdom of God or part of the "spiritual prostitution?" Will you give God His desire as a Chosen One?

What should Romans Chapters 8 & 9 mean to Christians? I expect it should mean a confidence to spread Jesus' Gospel to all who need to hear, next door and around the Earth. God didn't give us this

confidence that we are Chosen to stand idly by while sinners perish without an opportunity to call on Jesus. We, like the Apostle Paul, have a debt to pay to the sinners who are perishing if they don't hear Jesus' Gospel. We must leave what God has predestined in His hands. We must take action now to reach those “*who are being saved.*” **Romans Chapter 8** means that we have what Jesus promised, **power!** He would overcome the Gates of Hell, all the Fallen Angels, Principalities, Powers, and all Demons as told us in **(Romans 8.38-39)** to *Build His Church*. Jesus said in **(Matthew 16.18 AMPC)** *I will build My church, and the gates of Hades (the powers of the infernal region) shall not overpower it [or be strong to its detriment or hold out against it]*. Oh beloved Christian, Jesus is walking up and down the aisles of OIC to examine hearts, to bless and not punish. But if you sense His asking you, “*Where is your heart?*” *Confess your hardness of heart to Him and He will renew the new heart He gave you when you first believed.*

What should Romans Chapters 8 & 9 mean to non-believers? As the Apostle Paul declared: **(1 Corinthians 1.23/NASB)** *but we preach Christ crucified, to Jews a stumbling block, and to Gentiles foolishness.* And **(1 Peter 3.18/AMP)** *For Christ died for sins, once for all, the righteous for the unrighteous, to bring us to God.* Oh unbeliever, is seeing Jesus nailed to the Cross and bleeding for you, a *stumbling block*? Is that not enough for you? He died in your place to pay for your sins. Is this not enough? **Do you call yourself predestined to destruction or do you simply have pride against admitting that you need a bleeding, suffering, and dying Saviour to bring you to God?** While every head is bowed, raise a hand heavenward to reject this pride and accept the destiny of Salvation! YES..right now. We will wait a minute for your decision. I want to pray for you.

Let Us Pray,

REFERENCES

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