



February 6, 2022 • 9:30 am

THIS WEEK'S MESSAGE: God's Mercy Romans 9 (NIV)

9 I speak the truth in Christ—I am not lying, my conscience confirms it through the Holy Spirit—² I have great sorrow and unceasing anguish in my heart. ³ For I could wish that I myself were cursed and cut off from Christ for the sake of my people, those of my own race, ⁴ the people of Israel. Theirs is the adoption to sonship; theirs the divine glory, the covenants, the receiving of the law, the temple worship and the promises. ⁵ Theirs are the patriarchs, and from them is traced the human ancestry of the Messiah, who is God over all, forever praised! Amen. ⁶ It is not as though God's word had failed. For not all who are descended from Israel are Israel. ⁷ Nor because they are his descendants are they all Abraham's children. On the contrary, "It is through Isaac that your offspring will be reckoned."⁸ In other words, it is not the children by physical descent who are God's children, but it is the children of the promise who are regarded as Abraham's offspring. ⁹ For this was how the promise was stated: "At the appointed time I will return, and Sarah will have a son."¹⁰ Not only that, but Rebekah's children were conceived at the same time by our father Isaac. ¹¹ Yet, before the twins were born or had done anything good or bad—in order that God's purpose in election might stand: ¹² not by works but by him who calls—she was told, "The older will serve the younger."¹³ Just as it is written: "Jacob I loved, but Esau I hated."¹⁴ What then shall we say? Is God unjust? Not at all!¹⁵ For he says to Moses, "I will have mercy on whom I have mercy, and I will have compassion on whom I have compassion."¹⁶ It does not, therefore, depend on human desire or effort, but on God's mercy. ¹⁷ For Scripture says to Pharaoh: "I raised you up for this very purpose, that I might display my power in you and that my name might be proclaimed in all the earth."¹⁸ Therefore God has mercy on whom he wants to have mercy, and he hardens whom he wants to harden. ¹⁹ One of you will say to me: "Then why does God still blame us? For who is able to resist his will?" ²⁰ But who are you, a human being, to talk back to God? "Shall what is formed say to the one who formed it, 'Why did you make me like this?'" ²¹ Does not the potter have the right to make out of the same lump of clay some pottery for special purposes and some for common use? ²² What if God, although choosing to show his wrath and make his power known, bore with great patience the objects of his wrath—prepared for destruction? ²³ What if he did this to make the riches of his glory known to the objects of his mercy, whom he prepared in advance for glory—²⁴ even us, whom he also called, not only from the Jews but also from the Gentiles? ²⁵ As he says in Hosea: "I will call them 'my people' who are not my people; and I will call her 'my loved one' who is not my loved one," ²⁶ and, "In the very place where it was said to them, 'You are not my people,' there they will be called 'children of the living God.'" ²⁷ Isaiah cries out concerning Israel: "Though the number of the Israelites be like the sand by the sea, only the remnant will be saved. ²⁸ For the Lord will carry out his sentence on earth with speed and finality." ²⁹ It is just as Isaiah said previously: "Unless the Lord Almighty had

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Romans 9 (cont.)

left us descendants, we would have been like Gomorrah."³⁰ What then shall we say? That the Gentiles, who did not pursue righteousness, have obtained it, a righteousness that is by faith;³¹ but the people of Israel, who pursued the law as the way of righteousness, have not attained their goal. ³² Why not? Because they pursued it not by faith but as if it were by works. They stumbled over the stumbling stone. ³³ As it is written: "See, I lay in Zion a stone that causes people to stumble and a rock that makes them fall, and the one who believes in him will never be put to shame."

Prayers for February 6 - 12, 2022

West Sider :: Greg Crawford

West Side Ministry :: Youth Deputation

Mali Children :: Ganyouma and Karamoko

Local Church :: Church of Our Savior - Pasco

Additional Concerns :: Jan Jacobson, Scott Campbell, Ward & Carol Hughes, Rhonda Goranson, Lil Leggett, Grace Jackson, Gerry Wyatt, Dan & Sue Batchelder, Hideki Long, Debbie Mellinger, Janice Wellington, Karen Curtis, Sheridan DeLeon, Wendy Thomson, Rod Haines, Melanie Saint James, Trent Hamilton, Sandie Meigs, Jane Frazier, Bob Rozendal, Debbie Cassidy, Tedd Cadd, Jerry Strickler, Rick Grandy, Edna Sehmel, Jill Bruun, Lainie McElroy, George Sherman Booth III, Jeanne Swanson

In Military Service :: South Carolina-Adam Hardy; Illinois-Noah Ellis; Louisiana-Jared Hoey; California-Charina Erhart, Devin Glade; Washington -Mike Parkman; Washington/Oregon-Jacob Ellis

This week we are praying for Christeena Alachaimy with Sight and Light India Ministry/ASHA. She recently shared the following praises and prayers:

- *Praise God with us for bringing Ashish and Amy together and for their wedding on Dec. 29.*
- *Praise God for he has enabled us to complete the consultant checking for Vagadi John last month and are hoping to finish the consultant checking for Vagadi Acts and send the whole manuscript for printing by the end of this month.*
- *Pray for Hanna, who joined us last month, as I start to teach her linguistics and phonetics, so she can help in checking translations in addition to helping in many other ways.*
- *Please pray for the participants in the Bhilodi participants of the Literacy Classes to continue to pray and growth in their faith. May Varu Ben faith and testimony of what God has done in her life by providing a home after a fire inspire others.*

For private prayers, contact the Prayer Chain:

- Email at ws1prayerchain@gmail.com,
- Online at westsidechurchrichland.org and click on Prayer, or
- Call Roz Rodgers at 509.460.1233.