

^{9.1} I am speaking the truth in Christ, I am not lying! My conscience assures me in the Holy Spirit. ² I have great grief and unceasing pain in my heart. ³ For I pray that I myself might be cut off from Christ on behalf of my brothers and sisters, my family according to the flesh. ⁴ To these Israelites belong the adoption-as-children, the glory, the covenants, the giving of the law, the liturgy, and the promises. ⁵ To them belong the fathers from whom Christ came according to the flesh, who is the Creator over all creation and is blessed into the ages, amen!

⁶ But the word of the Creator has not failed. For not all of those from Israel are Israel. ⁷ Not all the seeds of Abraham are children. As Genesis 21 says, “*Your seed will be called through Isaac.*” ⁸ That is, the children of the flesh are not the children of the Creator. The children of the promise are the seed. ⁹ For the word of promise is this from Genesis 18, “*According to this time I will come and Sarah will have a son.*” ¹⁰ Not only this, but Rebecca also became pregnant from one man, our father Isaac. ¹¹ Before those children were born or had practiced what is good or bad, the Creator’s plan and choice was in place. ¹² Because of the Creator’s calling and not because of works, it was said to Rebecca in Genesis 25, “*The greater will serve the lesser.*” ¹³ As it is written in Malachi 1, “*Jacob I loved, but Esau I disowned.*” ¹⁴ What then will we say? Is the Creator unrighteous? Absolutely not! ¹⁵ He says to Moses in Exodus 33, “*I will have mercy on those I have mercy on. I will have compassion on those I have compassion on.*” ¹⁶ It is not the one who is wanting and running who is the Creator’s child, but the one receiving the Creator’s mercy. ¹⁷ For the Scripture in Exodus 9 says to Pharaoh, “*For this I have raised you as a ruler, so that in you I may show my power and so that my name will be proclaimed in all the earth.*” ¹⁸ So then, the Creator has mercy on whomever he wants and hardens whomever he wants.

¹⁹ Then you will say, “Then why does the Creator still find fault? For who can withstand his purpose?” ²⁰ On the contrary, you human, who are you to contradict the Creator? It says in Isaiah 29, “*The creation must not say to the Creator, ‘Why did you make me like this?’*” ²¹ Does the potter not have the authority to make from his lump of clay one vessel for honor and one vessel for dishonor? ²² And what if the Creator, intending to demonstrate his anger and make known his power, has been patient with the vessels of anger which are created for destruction? ²³ And what if the Creator has done this to reveal the riches of his glory to the vessels of mercy which he has prepared for glory? ²⁴ This is us, whom he has called! Not only Judeans, but also those from the ethnic-groups! ²⁵ As he also says in Hosea 2, “*I will call the one who is not my people, ‘My people,’ and the one who has not been loved, ‘Loved.’*” ²⁶ And in Hosea 1, “*It will be in the place where it was said to them, ‘You are not my people,’ there they will be called, ‘children of the living Creator.’*” ²⁷ And Isaiah 10 cries out on behalf of Israel, “*If the number of the children of Israel is like the sand of the sea, then the remnant will be saved.*” ²⁸ For the Lord, while destroying and cutting, will accomplish his word upon the earth.” ²⁹ Just as predicted in Isaiah 1, “*If the Lord of hosts had not left a seed for us, then we would have become like Sodom and Gomorrah.*”

³⁰ What then will we say? The ethnic-groups, which did not pursue righteousness, obtained righteousness, the righteousness which is from faithfulness. ³¹ But Israel, who pursued a law of righteousness through the law,

did not reach it. ³² Why is that? Because they pursued righteousness not by faithfulness but by works. They tripped over the stone of stumbling. ³³ Just as it is written in Isaiah 28, “*Look I am laying in Zion a stumbling stone and a scandalous rock. The one who is faithful to him will not be rejected.*”

^{10.1} Brothers and sisters, the good intent of my heart and my prayer to the Creator on behalf of Israel is for salvation. ² For I can testify about them, they are zealous for the Creator but it is not according to the truth. ³ For by ignoring the Creator’s righteousness and seeking to establish their own righteousness, they did not submit to the Creator’s righteousness. ⁴ For the goal of the law is Christ, leading to righteousness for all who are faithful. ⁵ For Moses writes in Leviticus 18 of the righteousness which is from the law, “*The person who practices these things will live through them.*” ⁶ And the righteousness which is from faithfulness says in Deuteronomy 30, “*Do not say in your heart, ‘Who will ascend into heaven?’*” For this is to bring Christ down. ⁷ Or “*who will descend into the abyss?*” For this is to resurrect Christ from the dead. ⁸ But what does it say? “*The word is near you. It is in your mouth and in your heart.*” This is the word of faithfulness we are preaching! ⁹ Because if you confess-without-hypocrisy that Jesus is Lord with your mouth and are faithful in your heart because the Creator resurrected him from the dead, then you will be saved. ¹⁰ For with the heart a person is faithful into righteousness. And with the mouth he confesses-without-hypocrisy into salvation. ¹¹ For the Scripture says in Isaiah 28, “*Everyone who is faithful to him will not be rejected.*” ¹² For there is no difference between Judean and Greek. For he is the same Lord of all and is enriching all of those who call upon him. ¹³ For as Joel 2 says, “*Everyone who calls upon the name of the Lord will be saved.*”