

MOOREBANK – HAMMONDVILLE ANGLICAN CHURCHES
QUESTIONS FOR DISCUSSION OR REFLECTION
Romans 9:1 – 18

‘Faith does not ultimately consist in obedience to a command but trust in a promise’.
How important is it that God is trustworthy?

Read Romans 9:1-5

1. How would you describe Paul’s condition in verses 1-3? Why is he in such a state?
2. Like Moses in Exodus 32:30-32, Paul could wish himself cursed and cut off from the Messiah for the sake of his fellow Jews. What does this suggest about the consequences for his kinsman for refusing to embrace Christ?
3. Explain two of the privileges outlined in v4-5. Given that the great majority of God’s covenant people did not respond to the gospel, have these privileges done any good?
4. If someone were to consider the privileges of v4-5 and the plight of v3; why might they conclude that the word of God has failed?
5. What was the situation when you last consciously relied on God keeping his promises? How would that have been different if God’s promises could fail?

Read Romans 9:6-13

6. Why does Paul say that God’s word has not failed (v6)?
7. Consider the first example that Paul gives, the birth of Isaac as the child of promise in v7-9 (You may want to read Genesis 15:1-5; 17:1-8, 15-21):
 - a. What is the point of the story?
 - b. How does it show that ‘not all who are descended from Israel are Israel’?
8. Consider the second example that Paul gives, God’s choice of Jacob rather than Esau in v10-13 (you may want to read Genesis 25:19-24):
 - a. What is the point of the story and what follows in Genesis 25:29-34?
 - b. How does it show that ‘not all who are descended from Israel are Israel’?
 - c. What is NOT the basis of God’s choice in v11?
 - d. Ancestry & works are excluded; what is necessary to be part of God’s people (v11)?
9. The widespread unbelief of God’s people Israel is not because the word of God had failed but because...? How does Paul’s answer help? What questions does it raise for you?