



FOR THE WEEK OF JULY 27

WEEKLY WORD

Read Romans 9:1-5. It's a little shorter text this week...a little less words for a little more *chew!* As you read these verses, keep in mind that Paul, in Romans, is making a case for Jesus as one who offers a fulfillment of the law and ultimate freedom to us. This is what he's been talking about for the last few weeks of our WEEKLY WALK. He makes this case to Jews for whom the LAW,

has been central for all their history, going all the way back to Mt. Sinai. In fact, the LAW was sometimes referred to as the *BREAD OF LIFE*. Sound familiar? Paul, himself Jewish, feels the frustration of now knowing Jesus and wanting to share this Good News to the members of his family of faith. Try giving these verses a read or two in other versions.

WEEKLY CHEW

Please wrestle with these questions during the week and feel free to offer your thoughts or questions on our LIVING WATERS LUTHERAN CHURCH SR WEEKLY WALK page at <https://www.facebook.com/groups/251008952628293/>.

1. Paul is sad that his own "family members" from the Jewish faith do not share in the freedom he knows in following Jesus. Can you share his frustration with your own friends or family members who don't know what you know about God? What is the struggle like in discerning when or how much to share your faith? Is there any way Paul can be inspiring for that struggle?
2. Paul had a revelation, meeting Jesus on the road to Damascus, which significantly altered the way he thought about his relationship with God. For those also doing the Rob Bell read, Bell talks about *DISRUPTIONS* that can challenge the way we used to think about things concerning our faith. Can you think of any *disruptions* along your own faith journey? What do you believe about God or your relationship with God that you may not have believed earlier in your journey?
3. God made a promise to Abraham (a one-way covenant) that his descendants would always be God's chosen. With Jesus, that promise was expanded to include Gentiles as well...all people. What do you think about people who are yet descendants of Abraham but are not followers of Jesus? Do you think they remain God's chosen?
4. Based on these verses in Romans and others you have read from Paul's writings, how do you think Paul would answer the previous question?
5. Congratulations! You just won a dinner date with Paul. What sort of questions would you want to ask him?

WEEKLY PRACTICE

Take time to pray for those people in your lives who don't know the love and hope of Jesus. Ask God to help you discern how best to be an envoy of the Good News to those who need to hear it.

PRAYER

Great disrupter of our lives, thank you that you have invited us to love you, to experience your presence and to know the freedom and hope you provide. Help us to be open vessels to your Word, your Spirit, your Voice and your Life. Amen.

I have great sorrow and unceasing anguish in my heart.

For I could wish that I myself were accursed and

cut off from CHRIST for the sake of my own

people, my kindred according to the flesh.

Romans 9:2-3 NRSV