

REMNANT CHURCH SERMON NOTES – ROMANS 9: 4-5 (PART 2)
PREACHED ON AUGUST 23, 2026, BY REV. B.B. ANUM-HIGHER

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.

➤ **INTRODUCTION**

- Last week, we considered 4 of the 7 privileges Paul listed as his reasons for having a great sorrow and unceasing anguish in his heart for the rejection of his own people of their Promised Messiah. Out of all the nations in the universe, only the nation of Israel received the adoption to sonship by God. God asked Moses to speak to Pharaoh, saying, “Israel is my son”. No other nations heard these words from God. Secondly, only Israel received the divine glory. God drew near to the Jews in a way that He never drew near to any other nation or group of people before the incarnation of Jesus Christ. God visibly disclosed to them His character and who He was. They saw so many miracles that only God could perform, yet they did not believe in Jesus Christ.
- They were also the only nation that received God’s covenants. God made covenants with Abraham, Moses, and David, promising that He would be their God and that they would be His people. Lastly, we consider the privilege of receiving the Law or the Legislation. God spoke in their midst, and all of them heard the voice of God. No other nation had this experience. They were all terrified when they heard God's voice because they had never believed anyone could hear it and still live. (Deuteronomy 4:33, 5:26).
- What did God say when He began to speak to them? He said, “You shall have no other gods before me. You shall not make for yourself an idol. You shall not bow down to them or worship them. You shall not make wrongful use of the name of the Lord your God. Remember the Sabbath day and keep it holy. Honor your father and your mother. You shall not murder. You shall not commit adultery. You shall not steal. You shall not bear false witness against your neighbor. You shall not covet.”
- Through the Ten Commandments, God gave the Israelites all the information they needed to be saved. Through the Law, they knew they were sinners because none of them could keep the Law perfectly, could not save themselves, and needed a Messiah. No other nation had this information.
- We will consider the other 3 privileges this morning. The privileges of the temple worship, exceeding great and precious promises, and having the patriarchs or extraordinary fathers.

➤ **FIFTH PRIVILEGE: THEY HAD THE REULATIONS FOR WORSHIP.**

- God had shown Israel how he was to be worshiped. God Himself taught them how to approach Him and how to enter the presence of the Almighty. "Theirs is the temple worship." All the other nations were blinded to the proper way of worship, and they kept working hard to find the way, but never succeeded. All other nations were deaf to the voice of God on how to worship Him acceptably. The Jews, on the other hand, were told precisely how to worship God. Worship was never left to human preference, invention, or imagination. They could not say, "I prefer a more traditional service," or "I like something more contemporary and spontaneous." Neither the High Priest nor the Levites were free to alter God's appointed worship to appeal to women, young people, homosexuals, or anyone else.
- It was not for the people to tell God how he ought to be worshiped. Instead, they searched the Books of Leviticus and Numbers to discover how the Lord required them to approach him, and they worshiped accordingly. They were told by God that approaching Him required a bloody sacrifice from a perfect lamb. As they obeyed his instructions, they sought to understand the meaning behind them. Why must the sacrifice be an unblemished lamb? Why did the worshiper lay his hand upon its head? Why did the priest shed the animal's blood instead of the sinner's? Why were some sacrifices partly eaten while others were completely consumed upon the altar? Why did God appoint one great Day of Atonement each year? Every detail pointed beyond itself to spiritual realities that God intended his people to grasp.
- Nor could the people redesign the priesthood to suit their own tastes. No one—not even the High Priest's wife—had the right to decide what garments he should wear. His clothing was prescribed by God. He wore the long white linen tunic, speaking of perfect righteousness, and over it the blue robe, reminding Israel of the heavenly nature of his ministry. Around its hem hung alternating bells and pomegranates, while upon his chest rested the ephod with its breastplate bearing twelve precious stones, each engraved with the name of one of Israel's tribes. For example, a little boy from the Tribe of Judah visiting the Temple with his father could point to the stone bearing the name "Judah" and say with delight, "Father, that's our tribe. He carries our name before God."
- The Temple itself was among the most magnificent buildings on earth, drawing God's people from Dan in the north to Beersheba in the south three times each year to worship the Lord according to his appointed pattern. Every aspect of its worship had been designed by God to prepare his people for the coming of Christ. Those ceremonies have now reached their fulfillment in the new covenant. God has given us the Psalms that our Lord Jesus himself sang, and above all, he has given us the true Lamb of God, who has fulfilled and completed every Old Testament sacrifice once for all. The ceremonial system has passed

away because its purpose has been accomplished, yet it still teaches us this abiding truth: without the shedding of blood there is no forgiveness of sins.

- The Jews and only the Jews knew how to worship God. Do you remember what Jesus said to the woman at Sychar? Jesus came to the well, and a woman said to Him, Jesus, I have a question for you, and it is about worship. Jesus responded to her that they, Samaritans, worship ignorantly, but the Jews know how to worship God properly because God told them how to do it His way. Jesus told her, "We Jews worship the right way and at the right place." All others worship ignorantly.

➤ **SIXTH PRIVILEGE: THEY RECEIVED THE PROMISES OF GOD.**

- God had entrusted them with his exceeding great and precious promises. "Theirs are the promises." What remarkable promises they were! The Lord declared just after Adam had sinned that the Seed of the woman (Jesus Christ) would crush the serpent's head. They had the gospel even in the Old Testament. All the good news to save a person from his or her sins was given to them. All the written promises from the prophets were in their books, and they had synagogues where these promises were taught regularly. They could quote these promises. They could quote all the passages in the scroll that spoke of the forgiveness of sins through the Messiah. They knew about Abraham's seed that pointed to Christ.
- God promised never again to destroy the earth with a flood. He pledged to give the land of Canaan to Abraham's descendants and assured Abraham that through his offspring all the nations of the earth would be blessed. He promised to bring Israel out of Egypt and into the Promised Land. He vowed to restore them from their exile in Babylon.
- Through Isaiah, he declared that the iniquity of his people would be laid upon the coming Messiah. He promised that though their sins were scarlet, they would become as white as snow. Job confessed the promise that his Redeemer lived and would one day stand upon the earth. The psalmists foretold that kings from east and west would bow before God's Anointed. The Lord promised to lead his people beside still waters, make them lie down in green pastures, restore their souls, and bring them at last to dwell in his house forever. What a treasury of divine promises God gave to Israel!
- Every one of those promises reaches its fulfillment in the Lord Jesus Christ. As the apostle tells us, all the promises of God are "Yes" and "Amen" in him. The Old Testament saints looked forward to their fulfillment; we look back and see them accomplished in Christ's person and work. Yet God's promises have not been exhausted. The New Testament is filled with even richer assurances for all who belong to Christ—promises of forgiveness, the indwelling Spirit, perseverance, resurrection, and everlasting glory. Not one of God's promises has ever failed, nor will a single one ever fall to the ground. He is faithful to all he has spoken, and every promise he has made will certainly be fulfilled.

➤ **SEVENTH PRIVILEGE: THEY HAD THE PATRIARCHS.**

- God also blessed Israel by raising up extraordinary leaders and fathers. They had the privilege of godly ancestry. "Theirs are the patriarchs." Paul here emphasizes the significance of the people whom God raised up to accomplish his purposes in the lives of the Jews. The Bible presents history as the unfolding of God's sovereign plan through faithful servants whom he calls, equips, and uses for his glory. The Jews had godly fathers.
- Hebrews 11 is a striking example of this biblical perspective. There we meet men and women such as Enoch, Noah, Abraham, Sarah, Isaac, Jacob, Joseph, Moses, Rahab, Gideon, Barak, Samson, Jephthah, David, Samuel, and the prophets. Each was called by God at a particular moment in history, and each left an enduring mark upon the people of God. Their lives are recorded not merely as historical accounts but as examples for our instruction. Through their faith, we are encouraged to trust God; through their failures, we are warned against unbelief and disobedience. Their stories bring biblical truth to life, moving it from abstract doctrine into living experience. As we see God's faithfulness in their lives, we are stirred to love the God they served and to cherish the people upon whom he has set his covenant love.

➤ **THE GREATEST PRIVILEGE OF ALL.**

- In verse 5, Paul states the greatest privilege of all the privileges the Jews have. "And from them is traced the human ancestry of Christ, who is God over all, forever praised! Amen." From the Jews were traced the human ancestry of the Messiah, who is God over all. Paul says, "Yes, the Jews have all these privileges, but above all, you can trace the human ancestry of Jesus Christ from them." In other words, the Jews are God's womb out of which Jesus Christ ultimately came. What a privileged people.
- Notice the careful change in Paul's wording. He does not say, "Theirs is the Christ, who is God over all." Israel possessed the adoption, the divine glory, the covenants, the law, the temple worship, the promises, and the patriarchs. Those privileges belonged to them by God's gracious appointment. But Paul deliberately stops short of saying that Christ belonged to them in that sense. The Messiah was never theirs to possess or control. Instead, Paul says that Christ came from them. By His human nature, he was born into the Jewish nation. The patriarchs stood at the beginning of Israel's history, and generation after generation descended from them. Christ came at the climax of that history. From these privileged people, in fulfillment of all God's promises, the Messiah appeared, exalted above them all as the sovereign Lord. Thus, Paul reminds the Gentile believers in Rome that every privilege given to Israel reached its glorious fulfillment in the coming of Christ, who is God over all, forever worthy of praise. Amen.

- This expression, “the human ancestry of Christ,” is unique in the New Testament. Paul is emphasizing Christ's true humanity. According to the flesh, he sprang from the nation of Israel. Through his conception in the womb of the virgin Mary, his birth, and his earthly lineage, he belonged to the royal line of David and to the family of Abraham. He was truly the promised Seed of the woman, the Son of David, and the fulfillment of all God's covenant promises. His humanity was real and complete. He did not merely appear to be a man; he entered our history, shared our flesh and blood, and became one of us, apart from sin.
- Earlier in the chapter, Paul spoke of his own “kinsmen according to the flesh.” He was physically related to his fellow Jews. They were his brothers, his family, and his nation. Yet many of them remained estranged from God because of their unbelief, and Paul longed—if such a thing had been possible—to bear their curse in their place. Christ, however, came not from an unbelieving people alone, but from the believing remnant within Israel, from those godly men and women through whom God preserved his covenant line. He was descended from Abraham, Isaac, Jacob, David, and from faithful saints such as Boaz, as well as countless ordinary believers who trusted the Lord through the generations. He shared their humanity and entered into the privileges God had bestowed upon his covenant people.
- Yet Paul's thought does not end with Christ's humanity. He immediately lifts our eyes to Christ's deity: “who is God over all, forever praised! Amen.” The Messiah is not merely the greatest son of Israel; he is the eternal Son of God. The Jews looked for a coming Deliverer, but few imagined that the promised Christ would be the eternal Word, who was with God and who was God, taking our human nature upon himself and dwelling among us. This is the glory of the gospel. The child born in Bethlehem is both fully man and fully God. He is the sovereign Lord over all creation, eternally blessed and forever worthy of worship. To him belongs all praise, now and throughout eternity. Amen.

➤ **CONCLUSION.**

- We have considered each of these privileges the Jews had for over 2000 years before Christ and still 2000 years after Christ ascended to heaven, the majority of the Jews are still in their unbelief. The Jews are still in their unbelief after having the privilege of being the adopted children of God, receiving the divine glory, the covenants, the law, the temple worship, the promises, the patriarchs, and above all, we trace the human ancestry of the Messiah from them. What do we learn from this? Clearly, spiritual privileges can be deceptive. Now let me personalize it. Where do you see yourself in this text before us this morning?
- There are so many professing Christians in Pella who are just like the Jews. There are multitudes of Lutherans who have all the heritage of the Protestant Reformation, the great preaching of Martin Luther, and have memorized the Martin Luther Catechism, yet they want to have nothing to do with the Jesus of

the Bible. They are in the church but have not repented of their sins and believed in Christ for their salvation. There are Episcopalians who worship in churches that follow the 39 articles of faith, and yet they want to have nothing to do with Christ. There are Presbyterian denominations that came out of the Reformation and have all the heritage of the Reformation, but they have rejected Jesus Christ. It is true of some Baptist congregations, the Christian Reformed Church, the Methodist Church, and several others.

- The Jesus Christ who was behind the glories of the Reformation and the Great Awakening movements, where tens of thousands were converted in a year, has been rejected by so many churches. Today, so many people want nothing to do with true biblical worship or the Regulative Principle of Worship. They prefer to wink at it; they invent new ways to worship God to look attractive and entertaining, and to blend with the generation they live in. Some Christians abandon the Moral Law. There are so many young people in Pella who grew up in Christian homes where they have seen something of the glory of God as they read the bible, saw their parents on their knees in prayer, they have seen lives being transformed by the gospel, they have been in worship services where the word of God was preached faithfully, and yet they are still in unbelief.
- So many Christians can quote the Ten Commandments, have memorized the catechisms, proclaim the gospel, have made professions of faith, are faithful at church, they know that whoever calls on the name of the Lord will be saved and whoever turns their back on Christ will be condemned to hell, yet they are still in their unbelief and have rejected Christ by their way of life. You can have all these privileges, but when you miss Christ, you have missed everything, a wasted life.
- What are you doing with all the privileges you have? All seven privileges Paul listed were meant to bring the Jews to Christ for their salvation, and the same is true for us in 2026. All the privileges we have, such as godly parents, being part of a church where the word of God is faithfully preached, etc., are all meant to direct us to Christ for His salvation. The Jews turned their backs on all of these privileges, and they were doomed, and if you also turn your back on Christ, you will be condemned. Apostle John writes, "Whoever has the Son has life; whoever does not have the Son of God does not have life." 1 John 5:12.
- Another conclusion I want to draw concerns who Christ is. When modernists claim that the New Testament never directly calls Jesus "God," we need only point them to passages such as this one in verse 5, where Paul declares that Christ is "God over all, forever praised." Christ himself declared, "I and the Father are one." Throughout Scripture, he possesses the names, attributes, honors, authority, and works that belong to God alone. He creates, sustains, forgives, saves, judges, and reigns. He is truly God. The songwriter wrote, "Who is he in yonder stall, At whose feet the shepherds fall? 'Tis the Lord! O wondrous story! 'Tis the Lord, the King of glory. At his feet we humbly fall; Crown him, crown him Lord of all."

- Have you bowed before him? Is Jesus Christ truly your Lord, or are you still resisting his rightful authority? The church is distinguished by this great confession: “Jesus Christ is Lord,” and through that confession, all the glory belongs to God. This verse also provides one of the clearest summaries in the New Testament of Christ's two natures. He is fully man and fully God, united forever in one divine Person. The Gospels repeatedly illustrate this glorious truth.
- What could be more human than paying taxes? Yet what could be more divine than directing Peter to catch the very fish containing the coin needed to pay the temple tax (Matthew 17:24–27)? What is more human than a weary man falling asleep in a fishing boat after a day of labor? Yet what is more divine than rising from that sleep and commanding the wind and waves until the sea becomes perfectly calm, leaving hardened fishermen asking, “What kind of man is this? Even the winds and the sea obey him!” (Matthew 8:27). He is the Lord. He is Jehovah Jesus. He is the King of glory. Every person bows before someone or something. Wealth, success, pleasure, reputation, and self all demand our allegiance. But there is only one who is worthy of our worship. Bow before the Lord Jesus Christ, who is God over all, forever praised. Amen.