



Jesus Saves

By Terry Kountz on June 13, 2022

TODAY'S READING: Romans 9

Have you ever seen the Geico commercial where they say if you are in a scary movie you make poor decisions? Sadly, seeing someone walk willingly into destruction does not just happen in commercials or movies. Maybe you have a friend who dates all the wrong people or a family member who refuses to get help with an addiction. When someone we love ignores the truth we can so clearly see, it leaves us frustrated and heartbroken.

In Romans 9, the apostle Paul expresses a similar sadness over his fellow Israelites. The nation of Israel was God's chosen people. But they were so absorbed with what they were doing for God, they did not see God in Jesus. Equally divine and human, Jesus was the rescuer they had been waiting for, but they missed it because He did not fit their ideas of who the Messiah would be.

Paul's hope came from his understanding that God is sovereign and God is good. We can go to great lengths to help those around us and then lose heart when we do not see results. But Paul reminds us in Romans 9:16 that salvation does not *"depend on man's desire or effort, but on God's mercy."*

People do not save people; Jesus does. Just like God was at work in Israel's story, He is at work in our loved ones' stories. And just like Paul never gave up telling others about Jesus, we never give up on pointing our loved ones to the truth. Because at just the right time and in just the right moment, God can make Himself known.

PRAYER: Lord, help me not grow weary serving You. Help me never tire of doing good. Help me to leave the results to You.

TOMORROW'S READING: Romans 10

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