

THE EPISTLE TO THE ROMANS

Wednesday Nights Holy Bible Study

St. Paul Coptic Orthodox Church of Atlanta

Chapter 9

- 1) In verse 11, St. Paul states, "*for the children not yet being born, nor having done any good or evil, that the purpose of GOD according to election might stand, not of works but of him who calls*"; can you explain election predestination in light of man's free will?
- 2) Regarding verse 13, "*Jacob I have loved, but Esau I have hated*" and also the verse from the first epistle of St. John, "*He who does not love does not know God, for God is love*" (1 John 4:8); if man is held at such a standard, then how could God hate? How can God have a negative characteristic?
- 3) Why does God form vessels for dishonor as it is said in verse 21? Can God create something bad although in Genesis it says, "*Then GOD saw everything that He had made, and indeed it was very good*" (Gen 1:31)?
- 4) Abraham, as St. Paul says, believed and "*it was accounted to him for righteousness*" (Rom 4:22) and it is this same belief that Gentiles attained to reach Abraham's righteousness without the Law. Why then did God send the law and ordered Abraham to circumcise? Why did not God advise the Israelites to just follow Abraham's belief?