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“To God’s Beloved: Paul’s Letter to the Romans”

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Session 6: Does God Keep Promises?

Welcome to Session 6 of our study of Paul’s letter to the Romans. I think that by now you may have begun to see the flow of this letter. It’s not a choppy little sequence of beads on a string—each question that Paul asks leads to another question about what it means to be children of God. From telling us in the first and second chapter, particularly, how much we need to be God’s children, to telling us how we have become God’s children, to telling us what difference it makes that we have become God’s children, finally telling us that we can trust being God’s children above all things, Paul has moved the letter along in a really interesting sequence of reassurance.

But now, in these Chapters 9 through 11 that we’ll study in this particular session, comes a question that some people think is at the heart of the letter—for Paul anyway, and perhaps for those who hear it—can we trust God to be faithful? Has God proven that God is faithful all along? And Paul needs to wrestle with the relationship here of Jews who have received promises from God—some through Abraham, through King David, even through Noah—but now do not believe that Jesus is the fulfillment of the promises. And Paul needs to ask, has God abandoned those Jews to whom promises were made of election? He will say, “No, God never breaks those promises.” But Paul has to work hard to get there and allow that mystery might be at the heart of the answer. See what you think.