

## General Introduction .

The Epistle to the Romans has been called the court room scene of the Bible. Here Paul sets forth systematically the principles of the righteous judgment of God, finds man guilty before God, shows how God intervenes to save some from the disastrous results of sin, and sets forth the consequences of God's action. The epistle falls naturally into three divisions. A good method of division is to put the first eight chapters in one division, dealing with justification, its need, its method, and its results. This section presents man given over to uncleanness, deserving the retributive wrath of God, and traces God's dealings with him until he is a full-fledged member of the family of the children of God. It is beside our purpose to analyze further this section of the epistle. The second section, chapters 9 to 11, treats of the calling of the Gentiles, the rejection and future conversion of the Jews. It is, in a way, a parenthesis, made necessary by the evident fact that many of the race which was regarded as God's chosen people were not recipients of the process of justification through Jesus Christ, while the Christian Church did include many who had formerly been strangers from the covenant of promise. These manifest facts call for explanation. The final section of the epistle, chapters 12-16, consists of practical exhortations and salutations to the Christians at Rome.

We are concerned with the second section -- that dealing with the rejection of the Jews. The apostle is here interested in the question, who are the recipients of the divine acts of justification and sanctification described in the first section. He first expresses his great longing that all his brethren, the Israelites, might