

Introduction:

In order to establish the context for our passage, it may be helpful to give a brief overview of Romans as a whole. Romans is an exposition of the "Gospel of God" (1:1). This is Paul's *magnum opus!* The good news is that peace and reconciliation with God is available to fallen sinners through the life and death of Jesus Christ. Chapters 1 – 3 give us the "bad news." This sets the stage for the good news. Chapters 4 – 5 explain justification by faith, citing Abraham as an example. Chapters 6 – 7 then describe the grace which reigns in and conquers the life of the believer. Chapter 8 is the great security Chapter. So the question arises regarding **how all of this happened.** How is it that the kind of person described in Chapter 3 (None righteous, who does any good, none who seeks after God, etc.) is made a child of God. The answer is given in the content of Chapter 9.

- I. Our salvation is affected by the power of God. YHWH SABAOTH – **The Lord of Hosts; the commander of armies!!**
 - a. This title conveys power; authority; an exalted position; the highest rank
 - b. We sense in this term the idea of a COMMANDER IN CHIEF!
 - c. This verse is a quotation of Isaiah 1:9
 - d. Read in its context, Isaiah 1 gives an assessment of human depravity.
 - e. THESE PEOPLE CAN DO NOTHING TO SAVE THEMSELVES!
- II. "Unless" – A statement of necessary condition
 - a. Unless the Lord creates for Himself a people, He will have no people!
- III. His church is referred to here as the "remnant" or a "seed" or a "posterity."
 - a. This seed or Church has been in the past "sometimes more, sometimes less visible." – WCF Ch. 25, ¶ 4.
- IV. So why is this good news?
 - a. If the Lord would not have done this then we would have met the same judgment as Sodom and Gomorrah!!
 - b. What happened in Genesis 19 would have been a preview of things to come for us had the mighty Lord of Hosts not changed our will and caused us to desire Christ!
 - c. Citizens of Sodom have been made citizens of Zion!