

# Before You Were Born...

ROMANS 9:1-13

Sunday, September 6, 2026 | Wawasee Bible | Milford, Indiana | Pastor Josh Weiland

When God's promises look like they **FAILED**, (v. 1-5)



**sorrow for his own** Rom 10:1; Luke 19:41; Matt 23:37; Ezek 33:11

**every advantage, still lost** Deut 7:6-8; Jer 31:3; Rom 3:1-2; John 1:11

remember his word **STANDS**, (v. 6-9)

**not by pedigree** John 1:12-13; Matt 3:9; Rom 2:28-29; Gal 4:23a

**but by promise** Gal 4:23b; Gal 3:29; Rom 4:13-16; Gen 17:19; Gen 18:14; Heb 11:11

because he **CHOSE YOU** before you existed. (v. 10-13)

**before you were born** Jer 1:5; Eph 1:4; Ps 139:16; Rev 13:8; Eph 1:11



**before you did anything** 2 Tim 1:9; Titus 3:5; Eph 2:8-10; Rom 11:5-6; John 15:16

Wawasee  
community bible church



## Wawasee Turns 40!

**One Service on Sept. 13 @ 10a**

KONA ICE | COOKOUT | CARRY-IN TO FOLLOW

On **Sunday, September 13** we will be celebrating our 40th birthday as a church!

40 is a significant number in Scripture, and a significant year in the life of our church. It will be a fun morning of celebrating together!

We'll host **one** packed service that day, followed by a carry-in meal and more.

We'll be grilling burgers, have a bounce house for the kids, and Kona Ice will be here.

## Sign Up to Bring Something!

The church will provide the burgers, **but we're counting on you to bring the rest!** — Scan the QR Code below to sign up for something to bring:



## Study Guide

Questions & Scripture for Further Study

**What is this?** — Each week people from Wawasee Bible meet in small groups in various homes to learn about Jesus, pray, eat, laugh, & live life together. **We call them Life Groups.** The questions here are based on the sermon each week (often a related part of Scripture), and guide each group's study. If you're interested in connecting with a Life Group, let us know on a Connect Card or at the Connect Desk!

## Welcome to Life Group!

### Getting to Know You

Part of our goal at Life Group is just learning more about each other. Toward that end, take some time to catch up with each other as you gather.

If it helps, here's a question to discuss and get you going. Have everyone answer:

*First, what was one good thing from your summer? Let's catch up!*

*Next — tell us about something you ended up with that you had no say in whatsoever: a name, a family trait, a hand-me-down, a hometown team you were born into rooting for. Are you glad you got it?*

## Digging Deeper – A Bible Study

**Use this guide for further personal and group study this week.** For the most impact in your life and in your group, *work through it on your own before you gather with your Life Group.* If your Life Group isn't gathering this week, use this guide for further study personally.

1. **Read Romans 9:1-13.** Looking back at your notes from this week's message, was there anything you heard for the first time or anything that caught your attention, challenged or confused you?
2. **Read Ezekiel 33:11 and Luke 19:41.** Paul puts three witnesses behind himself — Christ, his own conscience, the Holy Spirit — before he will even say how he feels, and then says he would be willing to be cut off from Christ if it meant his own people would be saved (**Rom 9:1-3**). What do Paul and God himself have in common in these verses?
  - Who are the people it actually grieves you to think about? Name one of them: write their name below, and pray for that person by name this week.
3. **Verses 4-5** are a list of everything God had given Israel — the adoption, the glory, the covenants, the law, the worship, the promises, the patriarchs, and finally the Messiah Jesus himself. Every advantage there is, and Paul is still in tears. What does that say about the difference between religious advantage and actually belonging to God?
  - If someone stopped you in the parking lot after church and asked why you are right with God, what would honestly be the first thing out of your mouth?

*(Study Guide continues on back panel...)*

At Wawasee, each of us is growing to increasingly live out these four roles as we follow Jesus together.



Secure Son/Daughter

I live each day increasingly confident in being a loved child of God—resting in grace, not striving to achieve approval.



Courageous Connector

I cultivate honest relationships that cross barriers and create belonging—even before belief.



Ready Storyteller

I live each day with a sense of sentness, ready to reveal my story and God's story.



Legacy Builder

Because of Jesus, I multiply what has been given to me by spiritually investing in others for kingdom impact.

Word Find in the Word

Find the words from a passage related to this week’s message.

Word Find: Romans 9:9-13 (NirV)

Find the words **bolded** below.

<sup>9</sup> God **promised**, “I will **return** at the **appointed time**. **Sarah** will have a son.”

<sup>10</sup> And **that’s** not all. **Rebekah’s children** had the **same father**. He was our **father Isaac**. <sup>11</sup> **Here** is what **happened**.

**Rebekah’s twins** had not **even been born**. They hadn’t **done anything good** or bad yet. So they **show that** God’s **purpose** is **based firmly** on his **free choice**. <sup>12</sup> It was not **because of anything** they did but **because** of God’s **choice**. So **Rebekah** was **told**, “The **older** son will **serve** the younger one.”

<sup>13</sup> It is written, “I chose Jacob instead of Esau.”

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4.  **Read John 1:12–13 and Matthew 3:9.** Paul's answer to "has God's word failed?" is that being born into that family was never what made someone an heir. What are our versions of "we have Abraham as our father"?

  - Ishmael was genuinely Abraham's son, but from Abe's effort, not God's promise. Where do we try to produce by effort what only God can give?
5. **In verses 10–13** Paul moves to Isaac’s twins — same father, same mother, same moment — with God's choice announced before either one was born or had done anything good or bad. Why does Paul reach for a case where nothing about the two of them could possibly account for the difference?

  - The theological/biblical word "election" makes a lot of people tense up. What have you heard about it before, and where did you hear it?
  - Pastor Josh defined it saying “election is simply the truth that God chooses us.” Did anything Sunday help you understand election more?
6.  **Read John 6:37 and Acts 18:9–11.** When people hear that God chooses, two fears usually follow close behind: *maybe he didn't choose someone I love*, and/or *then why bother telling anyone?* What does each of these passages say to those fears?

  - Paul understood this teaching better than anyone, and it made him pray harder and stay longer, not give up. What would it look like to let it do that to you?

Taking It Home

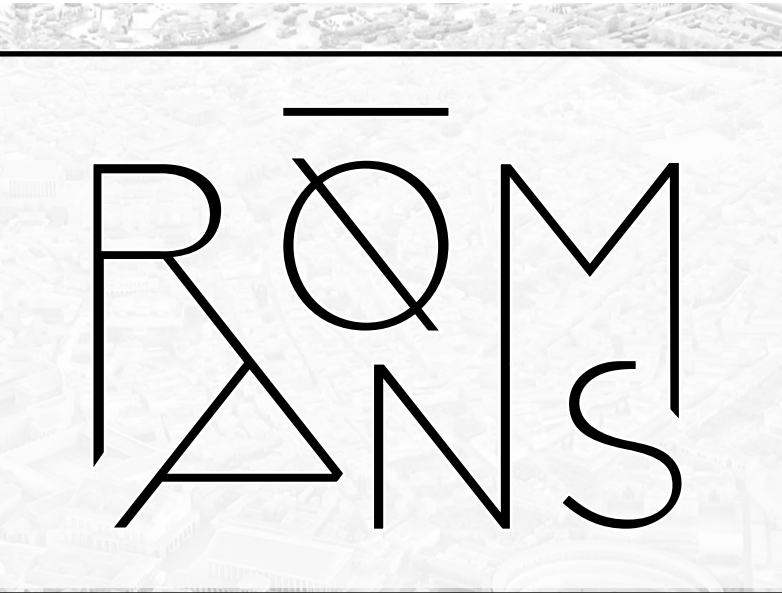
7.  **Read 2 Timothy 1:9 and Ephesians 1:4.** If your standing with God was settled before you were born and before you had a record for him to read, then you didn't get in by performing well and you're not out when you're performing badly. Where are you still auditioning? Still trying to earn something God settled before you existed? Naming that place and resting in God's grace (not your effort) will help you grow as a  **Secure Son/Daughter**.

Take time to pray for each other as you close.



Wawasee Bible is part of the Evangelical Free Church of America. View our Statement of Faith online at [wawaseebible.com/beliefs](http://wawaseebible.com/beliefs). Learn more about the EFCA at [efca.org](http://efca.org).

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Sunday, September 6, 2026

PART 17

**Before You Were Born...**

ROMANS 9:1-13





**We're Glad You're Here Today!**



Scan QR code for our **App** with **Bulletin, Connect Card, & more.**

[wawasee.church](http://wawasee.church)