

Title: Party Invite - Romans 9 25-33

Read:

Hosea put it well: I'll call nobodies and make them somebodies; I'll call the unloved and make them beloved. In the place where they yelled out, "You're nobody!" they're calling you "God's living children." Isaiah maintained this same emphasis: If each grain of sand on the seashore were numbered and the sum labelled "chosen of God," They'd be numbers still, not names; salvation comes by personal selection. God doesn't count us; he calls us by name. Arithmetic is not his focus. Isaiah had looked ahead and spoken the truth: If our powerful God had not provided us a legacy of living children, We would have ended up like ghost towns, like Sodom and Gomorrah. How can we sum this up? All those people who didn't seem interested in what God was doing actually embraced what God was doing as he straightened out their lives. And Israel, who seemed so interested in reading and talking about what God was doing, missed it. How could they miss it? Because instead of trusting God, they took over. They were absorbed in what they themselves were doing. They were so absorbed in their "God projects" that they didn't notice God right in front of them, like a huge rock in the middle of the road. And so they stumbled into him and went sprawling. Isaiah (again!) gives us the metaphor for pulling this together: Careful! I've put a huge stone on the road to Mount Zion, a stone you can't get around. But the stone is me! If you're looking for me, you'll find me on the way, not in the way.

Think:

So it's your birthday and the big party is planned. You are running around inviting all the cool crowd, setting up the music and food you can't wait. Then the day finally arrives and it's party time. The time for the start begins and a couple of mates turn up. You are not too worried no one ever turns up for the very beginning of the party. Half an hour later a few more drift in but still not the crowd you had hoped for. Finally an hour later they start pouring in and you begin to relax and enjoy the party. Why? Because we humans are fickle people, we want good numbers to create a great atmosphere and to show just how popular we are. Sad really isn't it? But that's how some of us are built. Sometimes we not interested in the individuals, we just want the crowd to come. Not our God, he's not like that, he doesn't treat us as a number. No Gods organised the biggest party you could every imagine in Heaven, and he has organised it for you. God is not interested in numbers, he wants you. When you turn up to the party God wants to stand there and say to you, "well done my good and faithful servant, you are here, lets party." If you have ever felt unimportant at school or college, if you have ever felt insignificant at one of you mates parties, then you need to know that God has selected you. You are important and significant, to God after all he made you and is waiting to party with you.

Pray:

Father thanks for making me, thanks for want me to come to Heaven, thanks for loving me for who I am. Amen.

Action:

It's great to feel wanted isn't it? Do you know someone who could do with feeling that type of great feeling? Ring them now and invite them to do something with you that will make them feel significant. Bye.