December 7 Questions

1) Paul lamented the fact that the majority of his own people, the , were not saved. However, Israel's lack of faith did not mean that God's Word had failed, because the promise was to the Israel of ______, not ______ Israel (Rom 9:6–7). This meant that ______ descent did not equal participation in the promised blessing of salvation. Was this unjust? By no means! God is free to grant mercy as He chooses, and by granting mercy to ______ (Rom 11:32), God showed that participation in the promised blessing has nothing to do with ______ effort (Rom 9:16). That being said, we are accountable for our sin, for God created us as agents, and we're responsible for our decisions (Rom 9:19–23). God provided access to the promised blessing by in Jesus Christ, not by ______ of the law (Rom 9:32). This is precisely where the Jews went wrong, for they sought to establish their own righteousness through rather than seeking God's righteousness by faith. The law had a righteousness that led to life in the sense that those who kept the law avoided the that was threatened to law-breakers, but it never offered ______ life. Did Israel's unbelief mean that God had rejected His people? By no means! There is even now a of believing Jews who participate in the promised blessing by grace through faith in Jesus Christ. The Jews' rejection of Christ meant the _____ of the world to God (Rom 11:15). This implied that the Gentiles should not be of their inclusion in the olive tree of believing Israel, for even though unbelieving branches were ______ off and they were grafted in, they too would be cut off if they did not by faith in God's kindness.