

Bibles???

The Word of God is the Absolute Truth and the Final Authority

Turn your bibles with me to Romans 11

We are continuing our verse-by-verse study through this amazing letter that the Apostle Paul wrote to the believers in Rome and to us today about the fundamentals of the Gospel of Grace.

About the problem of sin

About God's only solution to sin

And the answer is not in a form of religion or works – but in the person of Jesus Christ.

It is a gift –

We receive it by faith

By placing our faith and trust in Jesus – Believing who Jesus is and What was accomplished in His life, His death and Resurrection.

That is the simplicity of the gospel –

God made our redemption so simple that a young child can understand.

We make it complicated.

We want to make it by merit, we want to make it by works, we want to tell God how we want to approach Him on our own terms instead of His terms.

Salvation is made available to anyone

Everyone is savable – even though everyone is not saved.

God in His sovereignty has given us free will.

He honors our choice -

We can choose where we are going to spend eternity – in His presence or under His judgment.

Yet even in our stubbornness and rebellion – we have to remember that God is patient, God is long suffering and God is faithful to the promises He has given to us.

That He will never leave us or forsake us.

And this is the message that we are going to see this morning as we begin this new chapter in our study through Romans.

Let's pray...

Read Test (Romans 11:1-10)

After Paul spent the first eight chapters of Roman – reminding us of the Gospel of grace –

He turned his attention to his fellow Jew –

He had this burden in his heart for them.

He wanted them to embrace the gospel of grace.

He had witnessed with his own eyes how the Gospel of Grace had become a stumbling block to them.

Because there was a time in his life – where the gospel of grace was stumbling block to him – as he persecuted Christians,

This is the same thing that he was encountering as he was sharing the gospel throughout the Gentile world.

So Ch 9,10,11 – he writes to his fellow Jews who are going to listen to this letter.

Reminding the way God has dealt with them in the past (9), the present (10) and in the future(11) –

He anticipates many questions from the Jews –

Why has God chosen the Gentiles?

They thought salvation was exclusive to the Jews -

What about us?

And we have seen over the last few studies that Paul has given them a bible study in the OT – in Moses' writings and Isaiah's writings and in some of the other prophet's writings –

That God said that He was going to make salvation available to the Gentiles

That God always dealt with a remnant - there was always only a minority in Israel that constituted real faith in God.

That God knew that for the most part – they would reject the gospel of grace –

And we ended out study with Paul quoting from Isaiah -

[Rom 10:21 NKJV] 21 But to Israel he says: "All day long I have stretched out My hands To a disobedient and contrary people."

That was the current state of the Jewish nation – as Paul writes this.

That even in their current state of rebellion and rejection of the Gospel of Grace –

There was still grace.

There was still an opportunity for them to embrace the Gospel of Grace.

That God was waiting for them with open arms inviting them to enter into a right relationship with God, through Christ.

Which immediately leads to CH 11

[Rom 11:1-10 NKJV] 1 I say then, has God cast away His people? Certainly not! For I also am an Israelite, of the seed of Abraham, [of] the tribe of Benjamin.

Once again – Paul anticipates the question from the listeners.

And here in verse 1, he asks “Is God finished with Israel?”

And in the strongest, most forceful way – he says, “No way Jose”

God is not done with Israel.

The significance of this verse is that there are a lot of groups that preach the false theology that because Israel rejected Jesus – God has rejected them and that all the promises the God made to Israel have been transferred to the church –

This is not so church –

The church has not replaced Israel in God’s plans.

Read Ezekiel 36,37,38,39 – because in them we see God’s heart for the nation of Israel.

Amazing stuff church -

We see God's faithfulness toward Israel and how God is going to unveil things in the last days as we see Israel's restoration – some of it is actually happening before our eyes and some of it will happen in the near future.

Israel's restoration is not going to happen as a result because of anything good they have done or because of their righteousness – it is going to be because of His grace.

So again, Paul asks the question – Is God done with Israel?

No

How do you know Paul?

Paul's answer – look at me.

God's not done with Israel – look at my life –

If God was really done with Israel – Paul could say, “Why am I saved – I'm a Jew, I am a descendant of Abraham”

Turn with me to 1 Timothy 1

Paul in his letter to Timmy -

[1Ti 1:12-14 NKJV] 12 And I thank Christ Jesus our Lord who has enabled me, because He counted me faithful, putting [me] into the ministry, 13 although I was formerly a blasphemer, a persecutor, and an insolent man; but I obtained mercy

because I did [it] ignorantly in unbelief. 14 And the grace of our Lord was exceedingly abundant, with faith and love which are in Christ Jesus.

Paul is telling the listener –

I know that God can't be finished with the Jew because He was not finished with me – when I rebelled against the gospel of grace.

Paul understood that he had been the recipient of abundant grace and abundant mercy and abundant love –

And so in effect – he is saying, if God is willing to bestow this kind of grace, mercy and love into my life – then He is willing to do it in the life of his fellow Jew – and He is willing to do it to anyone who places their faith and trust in Jesus.

2 God has not cast away His people whom He foreknew. Or do you not know what the Scripture says of Elijah, how he pleads with God against Israel, saying, 3 "LORD, they have killed Your prophets and torn down Your altars, and I alone am left, and they seek my life"?

In verse 1 – Paul uses his own life as evidence that God wasn't done with Israel –

And beginning in verse 2 -

Paul goes back to using an illustration of Israel's path to show God's faithfulness.

And Paul quotes from the book of 1 Kings

Elijah was a prophet that stood strong for God during tough times and harsh opposition.

He stood before the Northern Kingdom that had abandoned God – they had turned to idolatry.

And Elijah confronts of the prophets at Baal – on top of Mt Carmel.

Butt hen, he becomes discouraged – Jezebel is after him.

he goes into hiding –

He begins to mope; he throws himself a pity party.

And he makes a huge mistake -

He thought that he was the only one who loved God.

And instead of praying for Israel – he prays against them.

Elijah felt certain he was all alone.

And whatever God had sent him to do - it was a lost cause.

“God, because they have rejected Your word, because they have turned to idolatry, because nobody loves You, I am pretty sure you are through with the entire!”

Paul continues in verse 4

4 But what does the divine response say to him? "I have reserved for Myself seven thousand men who have not bowed the knee to Baal."

Paul reminds us –

That God's answer to Elijah when He spoke in the still small voice was –

"You're wrong Elijah - I am not done with Israel."

You are not the only one who loves Me

I have set aside 7000 men who love Me

I am still going to fulfill the plans and the purposes I have in order to bring forth the Messiah.

No matter how rebellious Israel was, no matter how rebellious man is – God has a plan.

And that plan will be fulfilled.

5 Even so then, at this present time there is a remnant according to the election of grace.

This is what Paul is saying –

In the same way there was a remnant during the times of Elijah – that God had set aside

There was a remnant during the time Paul writes this letter.

Those (Jews) that have been chosen by God for receiving His grace.

The same thing is true today.

There is a remnant –

There is always a remnant

But it is according to grace

It is according through grace that God saves and works among us

As a believer, we want to be part of that remnant.

Where not only do we understand grace theologically – but we also want to live by grace.

6 And if by grace, then [it is] no longer of works; otherwise grace is no longer grace. But if [it is] of works, it is no longer grace; otherwise work is no longer work.

Paul makes it clear for us –

Grace is not works and works is not grace

Salvation is by grace

Salvation is by grace

Salvation is by grace alone through faith alone in Christ alone

We can never never earn or merit our salvation

Grace comes from the Lord

[Jhn 1:17 NKJV] 17 For the law was given through Moses, [but] grace and truth came through Jesus Christ.

[Rom 3:24 NKJV] 24 being justified freely by His grace through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus,

Paul repeats something he's made clear in the previous chapters in Romans –

Grace and works cannot be mixed

If we're saved by the grace of God, then it's all by grace.

The moment we base salvation on what we do, then grace is pushed out of the picture.

This is why the Gospel of grace was a stumbling block to the Jews and to many others even today

Because they say

We want to be saved

Apart from Jesus

Apart from grace

And Paul remains us – there is no salvation apart from Jesus, apart from grace.

For the people who knock on our doors on Saturday morning and say – oh yea, we believe in grace but we add.... – it is no longer grace.

I came from a denomination that believes in works and that God adds grace at the end for whatever we fell short on – it is no longer works.

7 What then? Israel has not obtained what it seeks; but the elect have obtained it, and the rest were blinded.

How is salvation found? Through Christ!

Because of their willful decision to reject God's grace, Israel had not obtained salvation.

The Jews were seeking to become righteous by their own efforts, by keeping the Law.

But the righteousness God requires is perfect righteousness, it's His righteousness, which He gives those who trust in Christ, not themselves.

While a tiny remnant of Israel had come to faith in Christ, the majority continued in their rejection of the Gospel.

They insisted on their favored status as God's chosen people because of their ancestry and confidence in the Law.

The elect, the remnant – found salvation, because they loved Jesus, because they embraced Jesus, because they accepted Jesus

They called on the name of the Lord

The majority (the rest) they became spiritually blind – their hearts grew harder and harder every time they rejected the grace of God.

8 Just as it is written: "God has given them a spirit of stupor, Eyes that they should not see And ears that they should not hear, To this very day."

Paul again returns to the Scriptures to show that Israel's rejection of the Gospel & subsequent hardening had been foretold by both by the prophet Isaiah and David

The spirit of stupor that is spoken of here –

Is the inability to think straight anymore – think of someone who has suffered a concussion.

That is the image that Paul is making here.

That because of their continual rejection of the gospel of grace – God has given them a spirit of stupor.

This is the same thing that happened with Pharaoh in the Exodus –

People will say something like – it wasn't fair that God hardened the heart of Pharaoh –

But the scriptures are clear that God hardened the heart of Pharaoh only after Pharaoh had already hardened his own heart.

God didn't give the Jews a concussion and make it where they are unable to embrace the Gospel of Grace

God simply is reinforcing what is already there.

Because when we resist, and we reject and we disobey – when we are indifferent to God and when we are indifferent to His commands – our hearts become harder and callous to His way and His will –

And the scriptures do not even hint that if anyone has a broken and a contrite heart, that if we go to Christ, that if we embrace Jesus, that God will neglect His mercies from that individual.

9 And David says: "Let their table become a snare and a trap, A stumbling block and a recompense to them. 10 Let their eyes be darkened, so that they do not see, And bow down their back always."

Paul quotes directly here from David in Psalm 69:22-23

It a Messianic Psalm

About the enemies of God

Who are the enemies of God?

Those who seek to be made righteous apart from Christ

Remember, before we became a believer, we were enemies of God.

-We did not have peace with God.

So this is how Paul is applying it to the Jews –

Because the Jews wanted to be made righteous through their adherence to the law.

They placed their trust in keeping the ceremonies and rituals as a means of earning salvation instead of seeing the ceremonies and rituals for what they were – which was to point them to their need of a savior.

Everything pointed to Jesus

They did a bunch of stuff – but they forgot Jesus / they rejected Jesus

And so they became burdened with the law –

It became a heavy yoke upon their life.

We talked a few weeks ago about the stumbling stone / the rock of offense who is Jesus

And so – in their zeal to keep the law – they were blinded and hardened to the gospel of grace.

They were not part of the remnant – because they were cosigned to the futile pursuit of obtaining the righteousness that comes by grace through faith.

God simply honored their choice.

Which really is what Paul has told us going all the way back to Romans 1

Salvation is available to all – but not all are saved – not all are part of the remnant

Yet God remains faithful in always having a remnant.

Let's pray...

To Receive Christ do the following:

Admit, "I am a sinner."

Confess and be willing to turn from your sin.

Believe, by faith that Jesus Christ died for you on the cross.

Receive, through prayer, Jesus Christ into your heart and receive eternal life.

Dear Lord Jesus,

I know that I am a sinner and need Your forgiveness. I believe that You died on the cross for my sins. Please forgive me for my sins and cleanse me by Your blood. I accept You by faith as my personal Lord and Savior. Give me a thirst for Your Word and Help me to follow You all of my days. In Jesus' name I pray, Amen.

Many false gospels will teach that you need some version of grace – they will teach that grace is needed – but they don't believe in the sufficiency of grace – in other words, they don't believe that grace is enough.

[Num 6:24-26 NLT] 24 '

May the LORD bless you and protect you.

May the LORD smile on you and be gracious to you.

May the LORD show you his favor and give you his peace.'

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