

## **Bibles???**

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

Turn your bibles with me to the Book of Romans 11

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

That our salvation – our justification – what makes us right in eyes of God

and

Our sanctification – our growth as believers

And our glorification

All three – are a work, that God does in the life of those who have embraced the Gospel of Grace.

Paul reminds us that Christianity is not about doing –

It is all about putting our faith and trust on what has already been done – in Christ.

The work that Jesus did on the Cross – His death and resurrection.

Again – this is something that I feel that we must constantly be reminded of – because our tendency is to try to earn God's favor –

To try to make it by merit.

I have done such and such – therefore, God owes me.

That is not grace.

And something that Paul has demonstrated to us in this letter is that God has always dealt with man – on the basis of grace.

This was a stumbling block to the Jews – even though the scriptures clearly point out that Abraham was chosen by God by grace and their election and calling was based on grace.

They were placing their trust in the heritage, in their obedience and observance of the law -

And for the most part – they rejected the Gospel of grace.

So – Paul in our text today – is going to remind the Jewish people and us – that just because they rejected Him, it doesn't mean that He rejected them.

And because the destiny of the Gentile is connected with the destiny of the Jew and the destiny of the Jew is connected with the destiny of the Gentile.

The same mercy that God bestowed on us while we were still sinners – God bestows upon the Jewish people as well – as we are all saved by grace.

Let's pray...

## Read Text

Over the last couple of weeks – as we as we have studied Ch 9,10,11 – Paul has asked the same question repeatedly –

Has God permanently cast aside His people – and Paul has repeatedly reminded the listener – that God is not done with Israel.

That God has a special plan for the Jewish people

And that God's plan for the Jewish people will unfold and come to fruition.

And so - in this chapter – Paul has given himself as exhibit A – on how God is not done with the Jews.

Paul is a Jew – and God has used him to preach the gospel to the Gentiles -

Paul has also reminded us that God has always dealt with a remnant – we looked at how even in the days of Elijah – Elijah throws himself a pity party because he thought God was done with His people – Elijah prays against his people - and God reminded Elijah that there was a remnant that had not turned to idolatry.

And last week – Paul gave us all a horticulture class – as he used the example of the Gentile Believers (you and me – Paul called us a bunch of wild branches) being grafted into the Olive Tree.

The same Olive Tree where some of the branches were removed because of unbelief

–

The branches that were removed – Paul was referring to the Jews who rejected the Gospel of Grace – were some branches – not all the branches (remnant)

And Paul reminded us that God in His grace and mercy – (verse 23) if they (Jews) embrace the Gospel of Grace – He is able and willing to graft them back into the tree.

Again – Israel's rejection –

God used it for good – to bring the Gospel of Grace to the Gentiles –

And that in turn was going to provoke jealousy in the Jewish people.

So – now Paul is going to show us through scriptures as he quotes from Isaiah and Psalms – to show us how the Messiah, the Deliverer – will cleanse and restore Israel.

**[Rom 11:25-36 NKJV] 25 For I do not desire, brethren, that you should be ignorant of this mystery, lest you should be wise in your own opinion, that blindness in part has happened to Israel until the fullness of the Gentiles has come in.**

I had you make a note of the word mystery.

In the Bible, a mystery isn't something we can't figure out.

It is something that we would not know unless God revealed it to us.

And in the New Testament – there are 8 mysteries -

Write this verse down – because Jesus references one of these mysteries – when He tells His disciples

**[Mar 4:11 NKJV] 11 And He said to them, "To you it has been given to know the mystery of the kingdom of God; but to those who are outside, all things come in parables,**

What is the mystery of the kingdom of God?

The mystery of the Gospel –

what it means, what it does.

How some receive it / some reject it –

Jesus was referring to the parable of the Sower

If they key to the parables was not understood – the entire parable was not understood.

One needs spiritual trust and insight – which is what Jesus is referring to.

The same thing applies to the mystery that Paul is speaking of here in Romans

The mystery of the rejection of the Gospel of Grace by the Jewish people.

And so, Paul makes sure that we understand that the blindness of Israel – it is just “in part”.

It is just a temporary blindness.

Not all the Jews are blind to the truth about Jesus

There are many Jewish people who have embraced Jesus as their Lord and Savior.

So because the blindness is temporary – it means that the blindness is going to come to an end.

And that end is – “until the fullness of the Gentile” – I had you make a note of that phrase as well.

At that point – the blindness will be lifted

The hardness of their hearts is going to be removed.

Think about what Paul is saying –

Last week – Paul said that the destiny of the Gentile was dependent of the Jew – We were grafted in / the nonbelieving Jews were cut off

And here in verse 25 – Paul now says that the destiny of the Jews is dependent on the Gentile.

Our destinies are dependent on one another –

So, the question becomes - What is the fullness of the Gentiles?

We get some hints to the fullness in other parts of the scriptures –

Remember - The best way to interpret the bible is with the bible.

Turn to Genesis 15

Here in Genesis 15 –

God is talking to Abraham about his descendants, how God was going to take them into Egypt – make them a great nation and then they are going to go into slavery for 400 years and then God was going to deliver them and bring them back to the Promised Land –

**[Gen 15:16 NKJV] 16 "But in the fourth generation they shall return here, for the iniquity of the Amorites [is] not yet complete."**

We could say it this way - The iniquity of the Amorites has not come to its fullness -

Picture a giant cookie jar –

This is one of God's cookie jars – with the name the Amorites on it.

This cookie jar is being filled with the sins of the Amorites.

While the cookie jar is getting filled – God is demonstrating mercy and grace upon the Amorites.

Over 400 years of grace was extended to the Amorites by God -

When that cookie jar is full, then the time will come for God to deliver the Children of Israel from Egypt and bring them back into the Promised Land.

This is what God was telling Abraham.

Remember, that part of the reason that God was going to bring the descendants of Abraham back to the Promised Land was to bring judgment on the Amorites.

They were supposed to wipe them out – only when their cookie jar was full.

In the same way – God has another cookie jar – the name on that cookie jar He has “Gentile believers”

The sins of the gentile believers are not filling this cookie jar – because the death and resurrection of Jesus has taken care of that. “Paid in full”

What is filling this cookie jar are those that God has called, those that God has chosen, those who have responded by faith to the gospel of grace.

The believers – you and me

This is a cookie jar that began to get filled from Acts 2

When that cookie jar is full – when the last person comes into a right relationship with Christ -



**then** God will once again turn His attention to the nation of Israel and remove the blindness that is temporarily upon their eyes.

And the redemption and restoration of Israel will come to fruition – Just as God had promised.

**26 And so all Israel will be saved, as it is written: "The Deliverer will come out of Zion, And He will turn away ungodliness from Jacob;**

Paul is quoting here from Isaiah 59

The Deliverer has come – 2000 years ago

The Deliverer will come again – in His Second Coming

He will come to Jerusalem and make His throne in the city of David and He will occupy that throne and it will be Jesus Christ Himself.

Jesus will rule the nations and the government will be on His shoulders

He came the first time for the cross – to die for you and me

But in His Second Coming – He is coming for a crown.

And Israel , as a whole, will be a saved people as they turn and embrace Jesus Christ

It is going to be a time of restoration and mercy –

**27 For this [is] My covenant with them, When I take away their sins."**

Turn with me to Jeremiah 31

**[Jer 31:31-34 NKJV] 31 "Behold, the days are coming, says the LORD, when I will make a new covenant with the house of Israel and with the house of Judah-- 32 "not according to the covenant that I made with their fathers in the day [that] I took them by the hand to lead them out of the land of Egypt, My covenant which they broke, though I was a husband to them, says the LORD. 33 "But this [is] the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel after those days, says the LORD: I will put My law in their minds, and write it on their hearts; and I will be their God, and they shall be My people. 34 "No more shall every man teach his neighbor, and every man his brother, saying, 'Know the LORD,' for they all shall know Me, from the least of them to the greatest of them, says the LORD. For I will forgive their iniquity, and their sin I will remember no more."**

I want us to notice that with the lifting of the hardness of hearts, with the lifting of the blindness, comes the lifting of sin.

With the lifting of blindness – comes sight (we sing it – Was blind but now I see)

Instead of transgression and sin – we have cleansing.

And God has promised not to remember our sins, in Christ

Church –

Sin is the problem

And Jesus is the solution

And when the sin is forgiven and the blindness lifted and the grace and mercy flow – the long-neglected covenant – the one that had been rejected, the covenant that had been refused will be restored.

**28 Concerning the gospel [they are] enemies for your sake, but concerning the election [they are] beloved for the sake of the fathers.**

This is what Paul is saying in this verse –

He is giving us – the believer, the attitude that we are to have towards Jews.

He is giving us a reminder – that the Jewish people are beloved by God.

They are beloved by God because of the covenants that God made with Abraham, Isaac, Jacob, Moses and David

Paul invites us to see the Jewish people – not simply for what they are – but for what they will be.

For what they are going to become.

We don't love the Jews because they are nice or because they are good.

There are some non-believing Jews who can be quite obnoxious, just like some Gentiles.

We love them because God loves them.

**29 For the gifts and the calling of God [are] irrevocable.**

The word irrevocable that is used here – is a word that means – not repentant or unregretted.

We could perhaps say that God isn't sorry about these gifts and callings – regarding the nation of Israel.

God had called Israel as a nation.

Even in their unbelief, God's call hasn't changed.

He's not sorry that He called them.

Why is this encouraging for the believer –

Why should we take comfort in this –

Because if God can break His promises to Israel – He can break His promise to me and you as a believer.

If God can stop loving Israel – He can stop loving you and me

If God gives up on Israel – that means He can give up on you and me

Paul is wrapping up his argument that he started back in CH 9

About God's integrity

Can He be trusted to do what He says? Yes

Will God deliver on His promises? Yes

I know these three chapters in Romans have been difficult.

But we must understand why Paul has taken such time with the issue of Israel.

God's integrity is essential to our faith.

If God cannot be trusted to deliver on His promises to Israel, how can we know that He will truly forgive us?

If He is not trustworthy, how can we believe Jesus when He said, "He who believes in me will live even though He die?"

How can we be sure "all things will work together for the good of those who love God and are called according to His purpose?"

How can we have any confidence that God will supply our needs or that God has any control over history at all?

**30 For as you were once disobedient to God, yet have now obtained mercy through their disobedience,**

To the Gentile reader –

Paul reminds us that we used to be disobedient to God.

We used to be in darkness

We used to be in rebellion

We used to be in disobedience

There was a time when the Gentiles rejected God – and then they were saved by faith – and experienced God's mercy.

We experienced God's mercy, His grace and His love – in part because of the Jews disobedience – their rejection of the gospel of grace.

**31 even so these also have now been disobedient, that through the mercy shown you they also may obtain mercy. 32 For God has committed them all to disobedience, that He might have mercy on all.**

**Turn to Luke 18**

We are going to look at a Parable that Jesus spoke –

And then we are going to tie it into what Paul is saying here -

**[Luk 18:9-14 NKJV] 9 Also He spoke this parable to some who trusted in themselves that they were righteous, and despised others: 10 "Two men went up to the temple to pray, one a Pharisee and the other a tax collector. 11 "The Pharisee stood and prayed thus with himself, 'God, I thank You that I am not like**

**other men--extortioners, unjust, adulterers, or even as this tax collector. 12 'I fast twice a week; I give tithes of all that I possess.' 13 "And the tax collector, standing afar off, would not so much as raise [his] eyes to heaven, but beat his breast, saying, 'God, be merciful to me a sinner!' 14 "I tell you, this man went down to his house justified [rather] than the other; for everyone who exalts himself will be humbled, and he who humbles himself will be exalted."**

In the parable, Jesus wanted the people to understand that we must recognize our sin before we can ever receive God's mercy.

We are all dependent on God's mercy whether we are Jews or Gentiles

Every one of us must come to God the same way.

Paul is saying God has allowed all of us to become addicted to sin in the hope that it will cause us to cry out for help and allow Him to extend His mercy to us.

As a believer – there was a point in our life where we have to come to the realization that we were a sinner in need of a Savior.

We deserved death.

So we cried out for mercy.

So, Paul in our text – is warning us against spiritual arrogance.

Where we think that we are better than they are.

It could be the Jewish people or it could be anyone – a nonbeliever, a believer who is struggling

You see loved ones -

We cherish and celebrate that we have received God's grace and mercy and then we turn around and insist others jump through hoops we establish for them.

Are we the pharisee in Jesus' parable or are we the tax collector?

Are we putting our confidence in our own goodness or have we come to the Lord with a humble heart and our hands open, seeking the mercy that only God can give?

Paul wants us to understand that we have access to God's mercy

That God's mercy is available to anyone

In spite of unbelief? Yes

In spite of wickedness in the past? Yes

We desire mercy when it is freely given to us but when it comes to others – we demand justice – not mercy.

Paul envisions a future where both Jew and Gentile are saved

And that glorious future will come by God's mercy

Amen



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.

Jew & Gentile alike begin in sin – but grace saves both!

[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.'

