

Salt Church

Romans 11:1-12

“By Grace”

March 8, 2026

The Greatest Book Ever Written

David and Cindy (June 6-14)

Recap:

Romans 10:17-21

¹⁷ So faith comes from hearing, that is, hearing the Good News about Christ. ¹⁸ But I ask, have the people of Israel actually heard the message?

Yes, they have:

**“The message has gone throughout the earth,
and the words to all the world.”**

¹⁹ But I ask, did the people of Israel really understand?

Yes, they did, for even in the time of Moses, God said,

“I will rouse your jealousy through people who are not even a nation.

I will provoke your anger through the foolish Gentiles.”

²⁰ And later Isaiah spoke boldly for God, saying,

“I was found by people who were not looking for me.

I showed myself to those who were not asking for me.”

**²¹ But regarding Israel, God said,
“All day long I opened my arms to them,
but they were disobedient and rebellious.”**

Here is what we learned:

- God’s people were warned long before their rebellion that if they rejected the truth of God **there would be punishment with a purpose.**
- The rejection of God’s word would cause Him to use the gentiles as an example of His grace.
 - God said that He would raise up for Himself a people of no certain nation or ethnic group.
 - They (the Gentiles) would be foolish in nature, meaning not desirable.
 - They would serve as an example to the Jewish nation that it is **by grace, through faith in Jesus Christ that man is saved**, and not by works.
 - This is exactly what God has done and is currently doing.
 - God says that the purpose of this out pouring of grace is to make His people jealous for His grace and mercy as well as salvation for the gentiles.
- **At the same time, God says that He has not fully rejected the nation of Israel.**
 - Even though most of the Jews have rejected Jesus as the Messiah, God has reserved for Himself a remnant.
 - Why?

- Because, God has made a covenant promise to Abraham that has not yet been completed.
 - In the end, God will redeem His chosen people.
 - They will believe in their hearts and confess with their mouths that Jesus is Lord.

Now Paul moves to the next logical question:

- Does chapter 10 mean that God has rejected His people the Jews?
 - If He has, then we (Christians) cannot trust God to keep His covenant promises made through Christ.
 - ***There is a lot riding on this chapter***, especially our salvation:
 - ***“For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, and whoever believes on Him will not perish but have eternal life.”***
 - This eternal life is based upon Gods Covenant promise.

Romans 11:1-12

11 I ask, then, has God rejected his own people, the nation of Israel? Of course not! I myself am an Israelite, a descendant of Abraham and a member of the tribe of Benjamin.

- “Of course not!” is the strongest reply in the Greek.
 - Paul chooses his words very carefully through the power of the Holy Spirit.

- Paul continues with logical thought,
 - For if God had rejected His people the Jews, Paul himself would have been rejected and not selected for salvation.
 - You do not get more Jewish than the Apostle Paul.

So, Paul's 1st argument is that we can trust God because God has not rejected His people completely.

- The proof is in the fact that Paul himself has been saved and separated for Apostleship.

²No, God has not rejected his own people, whom he chose from the very beginning. Do you realize what the Scriptures say about this?

- ***Can you feel the passion on Paul's response?***
 - He points to the written Word of God
 - Thus, Paul continues to prove his 1st point that God has not completely rejected His people.

Elijah the prophet complained to God about the people of Israel and said, ³“Lord, they have killed your prophets and torn down your altars. I am the only one left, and now they are trying to kill me, too.”

- ***There is so much going on in this verse.***
 - 1st there is the sovereignty of God.
 - God sent those prophets.

- God knew they would be murdered for the words they spoke.
- God allowed those altars to be destroyed.
- God allowed Elijah to feel this way.

- ***Why Pastor?***

- I don't have an answer that will satisfy other than this:
 - His ways are higher than our ways
 - He is all knowing
 - All powerful
 - He doesn't always tell us what He is doing.
 - Nor does He owe us and explanation.

Here is what I do know,

- Our job in all of this is to draw close to Him.
 - Get to know Him by studying what He has revealed about Himself in Scripture.
 - By trusting in what He has revealed
 - and resting in the promises that He has given us
 - So, we can have ***peace that passes all understanding*** when the difficult days come.

Back to verse 3

- Paul points to Elijah's limited view of life.
 - Elijah believes that He is the last believer on earth.

- God, who has the whole picture clearly in sight reminds Elijah that He is God over Heaven and earth.
- He reminds Elijah that even though he feels alone, he is not alone.
 - And *God reveals a very important truth about grace.*

- **Grace is Gods to give.**

4 And do you remember God's reply? He said, "No, I have 7,000 others who have never bowed down to Baal!"

- Baal, the prominent false god of humanity in Elijah's day.
 - God had just destroyed a large number of Baals priest through the prayer of Elijah.
 - God did this in a very dramatic way.
 - **But Elijah, this great prophet of God needed this moment.**
 - He needed to grow in his faith and so God allowed the events that would grow his faith.

Elijah's faith was not the reason Paul brings this to our attention.

- The point is that ***God grace is the only reason there was a remnant*** of believers.
- And it will be only due to God's grace that anyone believes.

I should also point out that God is not pointing out the connection between grace and faith.

- **This is a contrast between grace and works.**

- **Grace is the free gift of God**, and it is God's privilege to give it to whomever He wishes.

- In this case Paul points to the 7,000 Jews that God has kept for Himself.
- Keep in mind God wasn't keeping them alive for some future event.
- These were 7,000 people that God had poured out His grace and they had become believers by grace through faith.
 - **These were 7,000 believers who were saved and growing in their faith.**
 - 7,000 people selected by God's grace and not because of anything they had done.
 - We remember how God demonstrated His grace through Jacob and Esau.

Back to Romans 11

⁵It is the same today, for a few of the people of Israel have remained faithful because of God's grace—his undeserved kindness in choosing them.

- ***Paul makes it very clear*** what grace is in this verse ***“His undeserved kindness in choosing them.”***
 - **Not them choosing God.** (verse 6)

⁶And since it is through God's kindness, then it is not by their good works.

- Again, this is about God's grace and the contrast of man's works. ***For in that case, God's grace would not be what it really is—free and undeserved.***

- I will go to my grave not understanding why so many people refuse to believe what the Bible says about this matter of salvation and grace.

- Grace is only grace if it is free.
 - Free from our works
 - Free from our choices
 - Free from our determination

What does that mean Pastor?

- It means that God is not looking into the future and saying:
 - Bo is going to finally confess and repent at age 11 so I will pour out my grace and mercy on him now because of what he is going to do.
 - **THAT'S NOT GRACE** because it would be determined by my future choice.
- **It means that God's decision to pour out His grace on Bo was Gods decision alone.**
 - Without any outside influence,
 - God decided to pour out His grace on everyone that is saved.

What does that mean Pastor?

We must let grace be grace.

- If it is anything else other than the free choice of God, **it is not grace.**

Paul continues:

7 So this is the situation: Most of the people of Israel have not found the favor of God they are looking for so earnestly. A few have—the ones God has chosen—but the hearts of the rest were hardened.

- We have already been down this road so many times.
 - AGAIN, Grace is the free gift of God given by Him to anyone He pleases.
 - **To say that this is unfair is to sit in judgement of God.**
 - **If fair is what you want**, you must then accept that we all deserve Hell because that is fair. **(the wages of sin is death)**
 - You can try being mad at God because He doesn't save everyone, but that is ridiculous.
 - In fact, He doesn't save most of the world for Jesus said, Matthew 7:13-14 ***“13 Enter through the narrow gate. For wide is the gate and broad is the road that leads to destruction, and many enter through it. 14 But small is the gate and narrow the road that leads to life, and only a few find it.***
 - **This is reality and truth**

Yes, you can be frustrated:

- Or you can receive the wonderful gift of His love with tremendous reverence and gratitude.

Paul, knows that there will be some objections to what he has said.

- **The Holy Spirit then directs Paul to write these words:**
8 As the Scriptures say,

“God has put them into a deep sleep.

**To this day he has shut their eyes, so they do not see,
and closed their ears so they do not hear.”**

- If you believe that God is not the initiator of our faith, I do not know what you do with these verses.
- For it is God who opens the eyes
 - Opens ears so that the lost can hear.

⁹ Likewise, David said,

**“Let their bountiful table become a snare,
a trap that makes them think all is well.
Let their blessings cause them to stumble,
and let them get what they deserve.**

**¹⁰ Let their eyes go blind so they cannot see,
and let their backs be bent forever.”**

- It sounds so harsh doesn't it.
 - But this is what sinners deserve.

God's people had fallen in love with the blessing instead of the one that gave the blessing.

(Side note)

- All of us have heard this saying: **“God loves the sinner but hates the sin.”**
 - This is not a theologically sound.
 - God punishes the sinner and send the sinner to Hell eternally with absolutely no hope at all.
 - **But Pastor I am a sinner!**

- **Yes, so am I.**
 - But when God the Father looks at us, He sees who we are in Christ.
 - He sees the penalty for sin paid in full by Jesus.
 - He sees us redeemed, rescued, and **righteous.**

So, how should we rephrase that old saying?

- **“God loves the forgiven and hates the rebellious”**
 - Yea but Pastor where is the hope in all of that?
 - The hope comes in the gift of grace through faith in Jesus Christ.

Back to Romans 11

11 Did God’s people stumble and fall beyond recovery? Of course not!

- **God can save whoever He wants, whenever He wants!**
 - This is why we pray for the lost, we have no idea who God is going to pour out His grace upon.
 - **What we do know is that He has invited us into the ministry of evangelism.**
 - He has invited us into His joy when grace is received
 - and faith in Jesus Christ comes alive in a new creation.
 - My point is this:
 - **As long as they are alive, there is hope.**

Back to verse 11

11 Did God's people stumble and fall beyond recovery? Of course not!

They were disobedient, so God made salvation available to the Gentiles.

- That is an odd response, but it is also the promised response spoken through Moses.
 - **Why would God do it this way?** (Read the next sentence)

But he wanted his own people to become jealous and claim it for themselves.

- Can you see and hear the sovereignty of God in all of this?
- He knew this was going to happen.
 - It's all part of His plan.

12 Now if the Gentiles were enriched because the people of Israel turned down God's offer of salvation, think how much greater a blessing the world will share when they finally accept it.

- God's people were supposed to worship God with their lives.
- They were supposed to live in such a way that the whole world would see God's glory in how they lived and were blessed.
- But as we learned from King David earlier, they received the blessing with gladness but soon they became smitten with the blessing and soon walked away from the one who blesses.

What have we learned today?

- **We should be very humble.**
 - We were dead in our sin
 - We were blind to our sin

- We were deaf in our sin
 - We were not chosen because we are smarter
 - Wiser
 - More spiritual
 - Or had more to offer the Kingdom
 - We were chosen because He chose us without any outside influence at all.
 - *Understanding this breeds humility.*
 - Can you imagine a church that actually understood this truth.
 - *I can!*

- **We should pray hard for unbelievers**

- God the Father has invited us into the ministry of evangelism that is fueled by prayer and the power of the Holy Spirit.
- God can take whom He wants.
- And God takes all walks of life.
 - There is hope for the lost and He has invited us into the joy of being a part of the salvation of others.

- **We should share the gospel freely**

- Knowing that it is up to God to pour out His grace sets us free from trying to convince someone that Jesus is real and the only way to be forgiven.
- Share your story, God will do the rest.
 - Share your story and enjoy when God pours out His grace right before your eyes.

- **We should be willing to take risk**

- Be willing to share the gospel truth
- Get out of your comfort zone
 - Go on mission trips
 - Invest in eternal things
 - Invest your time in someone
 - Disciple someone
 - Help someone (Ask the Holy Spirit to help)
 - When you ask, get ready because He will answer quickly.

- **We should worship the God of grace**

- Love the God of grace
- Thank the God of grace
 - **When you go to work** praise the God of grace
 - **When you return home** praise the God of grace.
 - **When you lie down** at night praise the God of grace
 - **When you get back up** the next morning praise the God of grace
 - **When you're sick** and in the hospital praise the God of grace
 - **When cancer comes** for you praise the God of grace
 - **When your spouse has been taken from you** praise the God of grace.
 - **When babies are born** praise the God of grace.
 - **When the checking account is full** praise the God of grace

- **When the checking account is empty** praise the God of grace.

WHY?

For it is by grace through faith that you have been saved.

- ***It is because of this grace that Jesus said, “I will never leave you nor forsake you.”***
- ***It is by grace you will hear Him say, “Well done my good and faithful servant.”***