



PAUL'S LETTER TO THE ROMANS – Chosen, not Special Community Group Study Guide Romans 11:16-36 – Week of October 9th, 2022

1. Do not become proud, but fear.

God's favor to salvation has shifted from the Jews to the Gentiles, in order to make the Jews jealous for God. The temptation is to allow the blessing of God to make us proud. Our salvation is wholly founded on the grace of God, and not by any of our works. God does not tolerate unbelief, and He will remove branches that fall. This dichotomy is clear, that God is kind to those who continue in Him, and a severe to those who do not continue in faith. Our response to this is to stand firm, remembering that everything we have comes from Him, is through Him, and is for Him. We should not be proud, but fear.

2. The time to come in is running out.

God has a chronological end to His mercy. Right now, there is a hardening of heart for the Jews, and salvation has come to the Gentiles. However, this current state will one day swing like a pendulum back to the Jews. The branches from the natural olive tree can and will be grafted back into the tree. The root of Jesus is able to support both the natural (Jewish) and wild (Gentile) branches. However, the time for the Gentiles will come to an end. All of us must be aware that time is of the essence, and should be emboldened to preach the Gospel of Jesus.

3. Our God is an awesome God!

Paul concludes this deep teaching on election (Romans 8-11) by resolving in a doxology. Paul worships by extolling the depth, riches, wisdom, and knowledge of God. He rejoices in the fact that God is so far above ourselves. No one has grasped His mind, or been able to give Him direction. Paul reminds us of the totality of God's power, centrality, and authority over all of creation. God inspires awe from all His creation.

DISCUSSION GOALS

Head

That God in His grace has called His people. Our response to this is not to grow proud or arrogant, but to humbly remember that it is by God that we are in Christ. Furthermore, the day of salvation will come to an end. We should act accordingly.

Heart

In response, we are to praise God for all that He has done. We should worship Him, for all things are from, through, and to Him.

Hands

Knowing that time is short, we ought to be fervent in prayers for the lost, and proclaiming the Gospel.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Membership 101

October 30th @ 1pm

Prayer Night

November 6th @ 5pm

Read Romans 11:16-36

1. One temptation that we face as Christians is to become prideful because we are the chosen of God. How do we stay humble? What scripture do you meditate on to help in this area?
2. Paul reminds us that we must be steadfast in our faith or face the removal of God's kindness. A place like Boston can be very inhospitable to remaining in our faith. What spiritual habits or strategies have you found to overcome adversity? What areas might you currently be struggling in?
3. **Read Romans 11:25-29** What does Paul mean by this passage? How does it affect your view of your salvation.
4. **Read Romans 11:33-36** What is the heart position of Paul in this passage? Why should we imitate this when approaching God and all that He has done?
5. Verse 36 has a progression. Why is it so important to remember this in all things? How does this change the way you look at life?
6. Paul instructs us to continue in the kindness of God, lest you be cutoff. What does this require of us? Who is responsible for this? What are warning signs that we should be looking for?
7. In verse 26 Paul says that all of Israel will be saved. What does he mean by this? Where in Romans has Paul already clarified this statement?
8. Read Colossians 1:15-23 Why is the preeminence of Christ so important? How does this idea shift our view of life/the world?