

SERMON NOTES:

VOL 4: Part 21: Grace Remains: A Faithful Remnant

BIG Idea: Grace doesn't quit—God always preserves a faithful remnant.

Application: When you feel forgotten, alone, or like you've failed, remember: God hasn't quit on you. His grace is still working, preserving, and inviting you to respond in faith.

Join us as we read the Bible together in 2025.

<https://bit.ly/ReadwithMe25>

I. God's Faithfulness and the Remnant (vv. 1-2a)

Romans 11:1-2a (NLT) *God's Mercy on Israel*

¹ 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.

² No, God has not rejected his own people, whom he chose from the very beginning.

God's faithfulness isn't erased by our failure.

God doesn't quit on us – even when we feel like quitting on Him.

II. God Always Preserves a Remnant (vv. 2b-4)

Romans 11:2b-4 (NLT)

Do you realize what the Scriptures say about this? 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.”

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

God's work is often hidden – but never halted.

III. The Remnant is Chosen by Grace (vv. 5-6)

Romans 11:5-6 (NLT)

⁵ It 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. ⁶ And since it is through God's kindness, then it is not by their good works. For in that case, God's grace would not be what it really is—free and undeserved.

Where grace keeps flowing, a remnant keeps growing.

IV. The Rest Were Hardened (vv. 7-10)

Romans 11:7-10 (NLT)

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. 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.”

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.”

Definitions:

- **Foreknowledge** (*prognōsis*): God’s prior knowing, often relational and covenantal, not merely informational.
- **Election**: God’s sovereign choice, usually corporate in nature (e.g., Israel, the Church) but with individual implications.
- **Predestination**: God’s predetermined plan to save, usually tied to the destiny of those who are “in Christ.”

View	Summary	Key Theologians	Applied to Romans 11
Calvinist	Election is unconditional; foreknowledge is God’s choice to love some and not others; the hardened are passed over.	John Calvin, R.C. Sproul	The remnant is chosen by grace; the rest are hardened according to God’s sovereign will.
Arminian	Election is based on foreseen faith; God desires all to be saved and enables response by grace.	Jacob Arminius, John Wesley	God foreknew who would respond in faith; the remnant responded, the others resisted and were judicially hardened.
Catholic	Election and free will work together; grace is prevenient and cooperative.	Thomas Aquinas, modern Catholic catechism	The remnant is preserved through cooperation with grace; Israel remains God’s elect people.
Pentecostal / Charismatic	Often Arminian; strong emphasis on God’s grace enabling human response, with space for mystery and spiritual warfare in rejection.	Assemblies of God, Foursquare	The remnant is evidence of grace at work through willing hearts; God’s plan for Israel continues despite unbelief.

- **Prevenient grace:** God's grace working in a person's life before they consciously choose to follow Christ. It's the grace that precedes conversion, enabling a person to respond to God's call and ultimately leading them to faith.

What you do with grace determines what grace does in you.

4 Practical Theological Truths from These Doctrines:

- God's grace is always pursuing.
- No one is too far gone.
- Responsibility still matters.
- Election is about mercy, not merit.

Takeaway Truth: God doesn't quit on His promises, His people, or His plan.