

## LESS IS MORE

TODAY'S TEXT  [Romans 10-11](#)

NOTES 

# Main Street Church - Life Group Guide

Series: ROMANS: Best News Ever




Message: Part 17 – Less Is More

Speaker: Shawn Vandop


Date: February 12, 2023



## **Connect** (30min)

- CHECK IN:** (Break into groups of 2-3 or Men/Women)
  - Share a Highlight and a Challenge from this past week in your life.
  - What is 1 thing we don't know about you yet?
-  **February: BE BOLD IN COMMUNITY.**
  -  **Read [1 Corinthians 13](#).** Have one person read for this scripture for the group & use this as a guide for prayer.
  -  **Pray** – Take 10min to P.R.A.Y. together. Leader – time & transition to each component.
    - Pause (be still & listen. 2min)
    - Rejoice & Reflect (praise & thanks. 2min.)
    - Ask (invite & request 4min.)
    - Yield (surrender & trust. 2min)

## **Message Discussion** (45min)

- BEST NEWS EVER**
  - This has been a long series so far. How has it been for you?
  - What are some of the merits of going through a book of the Bible slowly? What are some of the challenges?
  - Have you read or listened through the entire book of Romans during this series? (It takes 1hr to complete)
- MESSAGE RECAP:** What did you learn from Sunday's message? What encouraged or challenged you?
- WORD**  **Open your Bibles to [Romans 10-11](#)**  
**READ** this **Summary of Romans 9-11** with your group to get them all up to speed on what Paul is addressing in these chapters:
  - Israel was chosen as the special nation of God. The Israelites were at the center of His program and were provided with all the privileges needed to serve God and know Him. **Romans 9:4-5.**
  - Israel abused her privileges and rebelled against God, culminating in crucifying God's own Son, Jesus. As a result, God took away the privileges of Israel temporarily and allowed the Gentiles to be at the center of His program. Presently, most Jews are hardened spiritually and only a remnant is being saved.
  - God's plan for man has not failed. He is sovereign and He is working out a plan that is deeper than we will ever know. He knew that the Jews would reject Jesus and that only a chosen remnant of Jews would be saved. God is working out His plan according to His schedule and nothing mankind can do, good or bad, will alter God's plan. **Romans 9:6-13** and **Romans 9:27,29**
  - The Gentiles are presently enjoying the central place in God's program. Gentiles are like "unnatural branches" which have been transplanted into an olive tree. As such, they must not become arrogant, but humbly walk with God while taking advantage of this special time of blessing. **Romans 9:25-26; 11:17-24, 25, 28, 30.**

- e. God has a great future planned for Israel. He is faithful to His Word and will fulfill all His promises to the nation of Israel. When the full number of Gentiles has been saved, He will begin to deal with the Israelites again. He will remove their spiritual hardness and they will come to Christ in large numbers.

**Romans 11:25-27.**

***\*Give your group a moment to discuss any thoughts or feedback on this overview.***

#### **4. LESS IS MORE**

Shawn began his message by pointing out that God often uses small things to make a big difference. What are some examples in Scripture of this Principle (i.e., faith of mustard seed, boys lunch to feed 5000 people, etc.)

- a. How does Israel fit into this principle? Discuss.

- b. **READ Romans 11:1-10**

Based on these verses how is God dealing presently with Israel?

He has not rejected them (**vv1-2**), He is still saving a remnant in Israel (**vv.2-6**),

He is allowing their hearts to be hardened (blinded) (**vv.7-10**).

- c. **READ Romans 11:11-24**

Based on these verses how is God presently dealing with the Gentiles (non-Jewish people)?

- i. Israel's unbelief has opened the door of salvation for Gentiles (**vv.11-15**), Gentiles are presently enjoying the privileges which first belonged to Israel (**vv.16-24**).

- ii. **READ Romans 11:11-14**

1. Paul views jealousy as a good thing in this passage – why is jealousy a good thing in this passage?
2. How does **Exodus 20:4-5** and **34:11-16** help explain what good jealousy is?
3. In what areas of your life could you display a “good” jealousy?

#### **5. READ Romans 11:25-29**

- a. Based on these verses, how will God deal with Israel as a nation in the future?

- i. God will save Israel in the future (**vv.25-27**), God will fulfill his promises to Israel (**vv.28-29**).

- ii. **READ Romans 11:22**

1. In what ways does the message of Romans 11 highlight God's kindness and severity?
2. Are you more likely to emphasize God's kindness or severity – whether in how you view him, or how you speak of his character to others? Why do you think that is?
3. What are the dangers of forgetting God's kindness? Or His severity?

#### **6. READ Romans 11:30-32**

- a. Based on these verses, how would you characterize God's dealings with Jew and Gentile?

- i. God is wise in His dealings with Jew and Gentile (**vv.30-32**) and his plan to save people provides opportunity for all people, in all times, to come to know Him personally. Yet, while providing equal opportunity for all people, His plan emphasizes the people who are most receptive to Him at any given time in history.

- ii. For those who are Gentiles, we are presently enjoying a special time of blessing during God's program for mankind. What things can you do to make the most of this time? What sorts of things should we be doing to take advantage of this special time that God has given us in His program?

- iii. God is faithful to fulfill His promises to us. How does this truth encourage you?

## Application & Prayer (15min)

### Romans 10:1, 9-14

<sup>1</sup>*Dear brothers and sisters, the longing of my heart and my prayer to God is for the people of Israel to be saved.*

<sup>9</sup>*If you openly declare that Jesus is Lord and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved. <sup>10</sup>For it is by believing in your heart that you are made right with God, and it is by openly declaring your faith that you are saved. <sup>11</sup>As the Scriptures tell us, “Anyone who trusts in him will never be disgraced.” <sup>12</sup>Jew and Gentile are the same in this respect. They have the same Lord, who gives generously to all who call on him. <sup>13</sup>For “Everyone who calls on the name of the LORD will be saved.” <sup>14</sup>But how can they call on him to save them unless they believe in him? And how can they believe in him if they have never heard about him? And how can they hear about him unless someone tells them? <sup>15</sup>And how will anyone go and tell them without being sent? That is why the Scriptures say, “How beautiful are the feet of messengers who bring good news!”*

- God is still saving people from among the Jews. The number is still very small, but He is still working among them. Do you know anyone who is from a Jewish background? If so, have you taken the time to share the gospel with them in an honest and sensitive way? If you have a Jewish friend, begin to pray for them regularly.
  - ✧ Pray for their openness to the gospel. If you don't have any Jewish friends commit to praying for Israel.
  - ✧ Pray for its peace and pray for the Jewish people to come to faith in the Messiah – Jesus Christ.
- What is an area of your life that seems small and insignificant and that you have a hard time believing God could ever do something with? Discuss it and then ask God to do only what He can do in that situation in prayer.

## Resources

✧ ONEforISRAEL: [www.oneforisrael.org](http://www.oneforisrael.org)

✧ JEWSforJESUS: [www.jewsforjesus.org](http://www.jewsforjesus.org)

✧ TREEofLIFE: [www.treeoflifeisrael.org](http://www.treeoflifeisrael.org)

📖 The Bible Project:

(Article) [www.bibleproject.com/blog/pharaohs-heart-grew-harder](http://www.bibleproject.com/blog/pharaohs-heart-grew-harder)

(YouTube) [Overview Romans 5-16](#), [How to Read the Bible Playlist](#), [Biblical Themes Playlist](#)

## Project 3:15

Our annual Apologetics Conference is coming up this **Sat. February 18<sup>th</sup>**, with guest speaker [Dr. Sean McDowell](#).

Visit [www.mainstreetchurch.ca/project315](http://www.mainstreetchurch.ca/project315) for more info.