

ROMANS

KNOW THE TRUTH

August 25, 2024

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SERMON: Accept the Mystery ~ Give God the Glory

SUMMARY: Romans 11:25-36 concludes Paul's discussion on God's plan for Israel and the Gentiles, revealing the mystery of salvation that includes both groups. Paul explains that a partial hardening has come upon Israel until the full number of Gentiles has come into the faith. He assures that all Israel will be saved, quoting the Old Testament to emphasize that God will remove ungodliness and take away their sins. Paul acknowledges the current unbelief of Israel but reminds readers that they are still beloved for the sake of the patriarchs and that God's gifts and calling are irrevocable. He explains that just as Gentiles once disobeyed God but now receive mercy, Israel, too, will receive mercy. Paul marvels at the depth of God's wisdom and knowledge, acknowledging the unsearchable judgments and ways of God. He concludes with a doxology, praising God's sovereignty and grace, affirming that all things are from Him, through Him, and to Him, emphasizing that His ultimate purpose is to be glorified forever. This passage highlights God's faithfulness, mercy and the unfolding mystery of His redemptive plan.

SCRIPTURE: Romans 11:25-36

I. ACCEPT THE MYSTERIOUS ELEMENTS OF GOD'S REDEMPTIVE WORK.

ROMANS 11:25-27

25 I want you to understand this mystery, dear brothers and sisters, so that you will not feel proud about yourselves. Some of the people of Israel have hard hearts, but this will last only until the full number of Gentiles comes to Christ.

26 And so all Israel will be saved. As the Scriptures say,

“The one who rescues will come from Jerusalem,
and he will turn Israel away from ungodliness.
27 And this is my covenant with them,
that I will take away their sins.”

Key Words: Understand. Did not want you to be uninformed. Receive.

• Paul knew of the pride of Judaism. He did not want Christians to have the same pride because God’s mysterious redemptive work will lead to the salvation of many we never know.

II. MERCY FOR REBELS.

ROMANS 11:28-32

28 Many of the people of Israel are now enemies of the Good News, and this benefits you Gentiles. Yet they are still the people he loves because he chose their ancestors Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob. **29** For God’s gifts and his call can never be withdrawn. **30** Once, you Gentiles were rebels against God, but when the people of Israel rebelled against him, God was merciful to you instead. **31** Now they are the rebels, and God’s mercy has come to you so that they, too, will share in God’s mercy. **32** For God has imprisoned everyone in disobedience so he could have mercy on everyone.

III. EVERYTHING COMES FROM GOD AND EXISTS BY HIS POWER AND IS INTENDED FOR HIS GLORY!

ROMANS 11:33-36

33 Oh, how great are God’s riches and wisdom and knowledge! How impossible it is for us to understand his decisions and his ways!
34 For who can know the Lord’s thoughts?
Who knows enough to give him advice?
35 And who has given him so much
that he needs to pay it back?
36 For everything comes from him and exists by his power and is intended for his glory. All glory to him forever! Amen.

LIFE APPLICATION SERMON GUIDE:

1. **Understanding the Mystery of Salvation:** In Romans 11:25-26, Paul speaks of the mystery of Israel's partial hardening until the fullness of the Gentiles comes in. How does understanding/accepting this mystery help us appreciate God's sovereignty and His plan for salvation?

Life Application: Reflect on how recognizing God's overarching plan can impact your faith and trust in Him. How can this understanding help you navigate uncertainties in your own life? Consider how you can share the hope and assurance of God's redemptive plan with others who may be struggling with doubt or confusion.

2. **The Future of Israel's Salvation:** Romans 11:26-27 mentions that "all Israel will be saved." What does this mean in the context of Paul's argument, and how does it reflect God's faithfulness to His promises?

Life Application: Think about how God's faithfulness to Israel can encourage you in trusting His promises to you. Identify some specific promises in Scripture that you can cling to during challenging times? Identify ways you can remind yourself and others of God's faithfulness and His commitment to fulfilling His word.

3. **The Irrevocable Gifts and Calling of God:** Paul states in Romans 11:29 that God's gifts and calling are irrevocable. How does this truth shape our understanding of God's grace and mercy, especially towards those who may have turned away (rebelled) from Him?

Life Application: Reflect on your own life and any areas where you might feel distant from God. How can you rely on the assurance of His irrevocable gifts and calling to draw closer to Him? Consider how you can extend grace and support to others who may be struggling in their faith journey, reminding them of God's enduring love and purpose.

4. **The Relationship Between Mercy and Disobedience:** In Romans 11:30-32, Paul discusses the relationship between mercy and disobedience. How does this paradox highlight the depths of God's mercy and what implications does it have for our understanding of grace?

Life Application: Examine areas in your life where you have experienced God's mercy despite your disobedience. How can this awareness of God's grace motivate you to live a life of gratitude and obedience? Identify ways to show mercy to others, reflecting the same grace you have received from God.

5. The Depth of God's Wisdom and Knowledge: Paul's doxology in Romans 11:33-36 exalts the depth of God's wisdom and knowledge. How can acknowledging God's infinite wisdom impact our perspective on life's challenges and uncertainties?

Life Application: Think about a current challenge or decision you are facing. How can trusting in God's wisdom guide you in seeking His direction and making wise choices? Consider incorporating regular prayer and meditation on Scripture to cultivate a deeper reliance on God's wisdom in your daily life.

6. Responding to God's Sovereignty: How does acknowledging God's sovereignty, as described in Romans 11:36, shape our response to His authority and our role in His redemptive plan for all creation?

Life Application: Reflect on areas in your life where you might struggle with submitting to God's authority. How can recognizing His sovereignty help you surrender control and trust in His plan? Identify practical steps you can take to align your actions and attitudes with God's purposes, embracing your role in His redemptive plan.

7. Embracing Our Role in God's Plan: Romans 11:25-36 emphasizes the interconnectedness of Jews and Gentiles in God's redemptive plan. How can understanding our place in this plan encourage us to live with purpose and intentionality?

Life Application: Consider how you can actively participate in God's redemptive work, using your gifts and resources to serve others. What steps can you take to live a life that reflects your identity as part of God's family? Set goals for how you will contribute to God's mission in your church, community and beyond, fostering unity and collaboration.