

Intro: If you'll remember with me the last 8 ch of Romans has been this theological discussion about salvation given to humanity. We've seen God's plan of bringing man back into fellowship with Him. We first were given a diagnosis to open our eyes to the very sin living in all of us.

Now when Paul taught this type of message from synagogue to synagogue through out the known world many Jewish people rejected the notion that they were as sinful as a Gentile. Because they were the chosen ones of God. In favor with God because of promises given to Abraham and to his descendants. The covenant of circumcision. The giving of the law and the ways of worship, i.e. sacrifices. All this was, in the Jewish minds, a means of being righteous before God. It was the Gentile world that needed saving.

Paul, writing this letter to the Romans under the power of the H.S. said "all have fallen short of the glory of God". And that "by the deeds of the law no flesh will be justified, for by the law is the knowledge of sin".

He continued to build from there laying down the foundation that the Jew as well as the Gentile all humanity needed to be saved the same way.

- Go to Rom 8:3

But the Jewish nation as a whole rejected God's Son, God's answer to sin, God's way of righteousness and crucified Him to a tree.

Paul then takes the next 3 Chapters 9,10,11, discussing the nation of Israel.

- Read 9:30-33

So Israel, God's very own people, by rejecting their Messiah and clinging to the law stumbled. At the rock of offense.

Many throughout not only history but church history, have stopped right there fueling the flames of anti Semitism and hate for the Jewish people.

There is a demonic guided hate for the nation of Israel even today! Not because they rejected Jesus but because they still are God's special people.... God's hand is still on Israel. He keeps His promises.....when we are faithless He remains faithful for He cannot deny Himself.

That's where we're going in Ch 11. We'll ask the question, "Is God done with Israel..." We'll see just how important their temporary rejection of Christ has been for the world. We'll take note of how He deals with Israel and how that applies to us. What do we learn about God for our own lives.

- We're only going to take half the chapter tonight.....

1-10 I. A BELIEVING REMNANT

1-6 A. Is God done with Israel?

- 1**
 - 1. "I say then has God cast away His people? Certainly not!"**

Look at me. I'm Jewish and I'm saved. Paul's using himself as the example of God's faithfulness.

 - a.** We know about Pauls' life. A very Jewish man, proud man, strict and zealous. Blinded in fact by hi extreme dedication to the law.
 - i.** Persecuted believers.
 - b.** Paul would be saying if God should be done with anyone it would be me.
 - c.** If there's an example of God's dedication to the salvation of the Jewish nation it is me.

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- d. If there's a reminder to the world that God is not done with anyone it is in me!

e. **1 Tim 1:12-16** And I thank Christ Jesus our Lord who has enabled me, because He counted me faithful, putting me into the ministry, 13 although I was formerly a blasphemer, a persecutor, and an insolent man; but I obtained mercy because I did it ignorantly in unbelief. 14 And the grace of our Lord was exceedingly abundant, with faith and love which are in Christ Jesus. 15 This is a faithful saying and worthy of all acceptance, that Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners, of whom I am chief. 16 However, for this reason I obtained mercy, that in me first Jesus Christ might show all longsuffering, as a pattern to those who are going to believe on Him for everlasting life.

2. Let me ask you something.... What is your life telling the world about God?

- a. Can people look at you and see God's faithfulness?
- b. Do they see the heavy hand of God due to disobedience?
- c. Or do they see God's grace & forgiveness to someone who surrenders?
- d. What Paul's life was reflecting was God's heart for the Jewish nation.

2a 3. **"God has not cast away His people whom He foreknew"**. Where did we hear that before? "Foreknew". Remember Paul used this term back in Ch 8 when he told us in vs28-29 that all things work together for good to those who love God and are called according to His purpose. And whom God "foreknew", He also predestined to be conformed to the image of His Son.

- a. See God has the unique ability to know things before they happen. To have all ready been there before we get there.

b. He knows those who will choose Him & those that won't and based on this knowledge He begins allowing our lives to conform us into His Son's image.

c. God will not cast away anyone who will eventually choose Him. Jesus said "This is the will of the Father who sent me, that of all He has given Me I should lose nothing"

d. Remember in Acts 13:48 when Paul was preaching in Antioch & some didn't believe but some did. Paul began preaching forgiveness of

sins to the Gentiles and it says "when the Gentiles heard this they were glad and glorified the word of the Lord. And as many as had been appointed to eternal life believed".

2a

4. We see the outer but God knows the heart. Not only does He know the heart but He knows the choices people "will" make.

a. Sometimes you may think someone will never get it. Yet God knows and will never cast anyone away. (He has a way of getting people where He wants them to be. Like Jonah)

2b

b. Other times we may feel we're the only ones ... @ work or @ home. Read vs 2b " or do you not know what the scriptures"

c. Examples from Elijah. "I alone am left" " I have reserved for Myself seven thousand men who have not bowed the knee to Baal"

d. God was saying "You're not alone Elijah. It's not all about you. You don't know the work I'm doing. In people's hearts.

e. "I've reserved for Myself" Today we think that there are none in Israel who believe but there are more Jewish Christians than we think. They are the reminder that God is not done with the nation of Israel.

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- 5-6 5. **“Even so then, at this present time there is a remnant according to the election of grace”** Paul may have felt like Elijah himself at times, but even he’s reminded that even then there was a remnant according to the election of grace.
- a. And if by grace it cannot be worked for or earned. Or else it wouldn’t be grace.
- b. We are chosen, elected simply as an act of grace. Not because at anytime we deserved it.

7-10 B. A Temporary Blindness

Paul is re iterating what he had said in Ch9 that what Israel had been seeking after it didn’t obtain but the elect did.

- 7 1. Israel was trying to make a right relationship w/ God based upon the law. They attempted it but didn’t obtain it because they sought it by works.
- a. And because of that those that seek relationship w/God based on His terms receive right standing and salvation. And the rest are blinded.
- 8 2. **“Just as it was written: God has given them a spirit of stupor, eyes that they should not see and ears that they should not hear to this very day”**
- a. And that’s the same today as it was in Pauls day. (won’t receive things like Is 53 etc.)
- b. Paul’s quoting Is 29:10 & Duet 29:4 where God predicted this would happen.

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- c. Where they refused to see the Lord Jesus as Messiah n Savior, they now lost the power to.

d. **Go to Isa 29:9-14**

- i. "I will again do a marvelous work"
- ii. When ? See Rom 11:25

11-15 C. Israel's Fall Brings Salvation To Gentiles

11 1. Here's Paul's 3rd question. 1st Has God cast away His people? NO
2nd Well then what's happened? They've been blinded. They've stumbled. 3rd So then have they stumbled that they should fall?
Meaning have they stumbled that they might never be restored?

a. Paul's answer was certainly not. Even they're fall has not gone outside God's sovereignty. God has used it to bring salvation to the Gentiles to provoke them to jealousy.

b. Seeing your right standing with God would move them to re evaluate their position with God.

i. To take a second look.... To see the Holy Spirit now working in the lives of the church.

2. Now this had been God's plan from eternity past. Remember He told Moses Rom 10:19...& Isa vs 20.

12 3. Talking to Gentiles he says look "Now if their fall is riches for the world and their failure riches for the Gentiles how much more their fullness."

13-14 4. **Pauls' ministry magnified to provoke jealousy & save.**

a. Do we live as to create a jealousy?

b. **Matt 5:13** "You are the salt of the earth; but if the salt loses its flavor, how shall it be seasoned? It is then good for nothing but to be thrown out and trampled underfoot by men.

c. Also to create thirst? (eating popcorn with mom)

Community Questions

- Even though the nation of Israel as a whole had rejected Jesus as Messiah, God is not done dealing with them, He still has a plan for them. What does this reveal to you about Gods work in your life?
- In verse 1 Paul used himself as an example that God's not done with Israel. How are some ways God uses you as an example to the world? Co workers, family etc.
 - In what ways should you be more of an example?
 - Can you magnify your ministry to create a jealousy for the Lord? A thirst for Him?