



Sermon Text: Romans 11:25-32

Sermon Date: March 6

As we approach the end of our study through Romans 9-11, Paul wraps up his argument as to why God's Word has not failed. Before he shares with the Roman Christians the mystery of God's purposes with Israel, however, it is important to see one reason why he shares this mystery with the church: it is to combat Gentile arrogance. That was our first point.

1. **The Sinister Threat of Spiritual Arrogance:** In verse 25, for the third time in this chapter, Paul takes aim at the spiritual arrogance that had infested the Gentile Christians' hearts. "Lest you be wise in your own sight" Paul shares with them God's purpose for Israel. Pastor Justin made the point that often spiritual enlightenment is immediately followed by spiritual arrogance. We must continually be on guard that we do not allow our sinful pride to morph God's gracious work in our lives into a sickening sense of spiritual superiority.
2. **The Mystery that All Israel will be Saved:** To keep them from arrogance, Paul shares the mystery of God's plans. A "mystery" in the New Testament is a plan of God that has long been hidden, but has now been made known by revelation. This mystery has three parts: (1) A partial hardening has come upon Israel so a vast majority reject the gospel; (2) This partial hardening is temporary, lasting until the full number of Gentiles enter the Kingdom; and (3) and then the "all Israel" (that is the end-time generation of Jews) will be saved in dramatic fashion near the time of Christ's return. God will certainly accomplish the promises He made to the forefathers of the Jews.
3. **God's Purpose in All of Salvation-History:** Paul ends by showing us God's grand purpose in salvation. Both Gentiles and Jews will be rescued from long standing disobedience solely because of God's mercy. God's purpose is to magnify His mercy. No person or people-group can boast or claim a right to the Kingdom. All peoples will always know that they are in Glory simply because of God's mercy alone.

Following this last point, we saw three aspects of this truth that demanded emphasizing.

1. **God's Certain Sovereignty.** Paul's picture of salvation-history is one in which God is in complete, unquestioned control. He is the one who consigns to disobedience and the one who has mercy.
2. **The God-centered Goal of Salvation.** In magnifying His mercy, God is maximizing His glory. It is the giver, not the receiver, of mercy who gets the glory. At the center of God's purpose in salvation is the exaltation of His own glory and praise.
3. **Yours is a story of mercy.** What is true on a global scale, is equally true individually. Our salvation is a story of mercy. We miss God's point when we minimize or hide our dependence on His mercy.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

- 1) **What stood out to you from the sermon and the biblical text from this Sunday?**
- 2) **Why do you think that spiritual arrogance often immediately follows spiritual enlightenment?**
How can we guard ourselves and each other from the sinister threat of spiritual arrogance?
- 3) **How do you minimize or hide your dependence upon God's mercy for salvation? How does God's aim to magnify His mercy give you comfort and security to run to Him in repentance?**