



Sermon Text: Romans 11:11-24

Sermon Date: February 28

Pastor Justin began by reminding us of Paul's overarching purpose for this section of Romans, which is to defend the trustworthiness of God. Pastor Justin made three points and then pressed home four points of application.

1. **Israel's Rejection is not Final:** Last week, we saw that that Israel's rejection was not total (11:1-10), this week Paul shows us that Israel's rejection isn't final. Paul shows us throughout the passage that God will bring Israel back to Himself, grafting them back into the tree of His people (11:24).
2. **God has a Good Purpose in Israel's Failure:** Paul also shows us that Israel's rejection wasn't a setback He has to work around, but a part of His wise, good, and sovereign plan. Through Israel's rejection, salvation was made available to the Gentiles. And this (Gentile salvation) will be used by God to provoke Israel to jealousy and lead them to salvation in the future.
3. **God has a Glorious Purpose for Israel's Future:** Lastly, Paul shows that Israel's rejection is not the final word. One day they will be fully included, and he argues that if Israel's failure resulted in salvation for the world, just think how much more glorious their acceptance will be. What will result from Israel's "full inclusion," their large-scale embrace of Jesus? Verse 15 tells us: "life from the dead." Israel's large-scale embrace of Jesus as Lord will usher in the resurrection of the dead and the fullness of our eternal inheritance.

In the remainder of our passage, Paul presses upon Gentiles a few points of application.

1. **Abandon all arrogance:** We must not be arrogant toward the Jews, believing that we are somehow superior. It appears that many Gentile Christians in Rome were looking down upon their Jewish Christian counterparts, like they were version 2.0 of God's people.
2. **Fearfully take note of God's ways:** Instead of becoming proud, Paul exhorts us to fear. We are to note His severity to those whose arrogance blinds them in disbelief, and to remember that we stand only in faith alone. Paul warns us that we must continue clinging to God's gospel kindness or we too will be cut off in unbelief as the Jews were.
3. **Long for Israel's return:** We should pray and yearn for Israel to embrace her Messiah, longing for the awesome blessings that will bring. This means we should never persecute Jews, but shine forth the blessings of salvation, inviting them to enjoy the inexhaustible riches we've received in Christ.
4. **Trust God's Purposes:** Lastly, remembering Paul's main goal in this entire section, we should trust God's purposes. Every twist and turn of history has a specific purpose. There are no false steps. God never needs white-out. This is true for our lives as well. In our fears and anxieties, we must remember that God is working out His perfect plan with infinite wisdom and care. We can trust Him with everything and in everything.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

- 1) **What stood out to you from the sermon and the biblical text from this Sunday?**
- 2) **While the specifics of Romans 11 may seem impractical, how do God's grand plans revealed in our passage encourage you to trust Him in the fears and anxieties of your life?**