

BIBLE DISCUSSION GROUP STUDY QUESTIONS

In preparation for Sunday, January 5, 2014

Passage: Romans 11:1-10

Memory Passage: Romans 11:5-6

DAY 1 – ASK FOR INSIGHT

READ THE PASSAGE

- (a) **Read Rom. 11:1-10 & 1 Sam. 12:19-25.** Why does Paul ask, “Has God rejected his people?” and does “his people” refer to physical or spiritual Israel?
- (b) For what purpose does Paul provide his mini resume in v. 1, and why does he choose these particular facts to reveal?
- (c) When Paul says that God “foreknew” his people, what does he mean? See passages such as Rom. 8:28-30, Deut. 7:7-11, Amos 3:2, & Gal. 4:8-9 for a reminder of what we have already learned in our study of Romans.
- (d) What reason is given for God’s faithfulness to His people in 1 Sam. 12:19-25 (Paul seems to refer to 1 Sam. 12:22 in 11:2a)?

DAY 2 – ASK FOR INSIGHT

READ THE PASSAGE

- (a) **Read Rom. 11:1-10 & 1 Kings 19:1-18.** What is Elijah’s main problem, and what should its remedy have been?
- (b) Why does God ask Elijah the same question twice, in 2 different settings?
- (c) How does Paul use the Elijah story in Rom. 11:2b-4, and what main point does he make from Elijah’s example?
- (d) How can this truth (God’s sovereign preservation of a remnant) help you to not act like Elijah when you think of the apostasy in the 21st century church, the decline of morality in American, or the rise of immoral people to positions of power?

DAY 3 – ASK FOR INSIGHT

READ THE PASSAGE

- (a) **Read Rom. 11:1-10.** To what does “it” refer in 11:6?
- (b) What does Paul mean by the phrase, “no longer” in v. 6? I.e., is he saying that “it” “used to be” by works or is he saying something else, and if something else, then what?
- (c) How does a remnant chosen on the basis of works nullify grace, and how does this idea further Paul’s argument in Romans?

DAY 4 – ASK FOR INSIGHT

READ THE PASSAGE

- (a) **Read Romans 11:1-10.** By using “What then?” to begin v. 7, is Paul intending to sum up 11:1-6 or 9:30-11:6? What facts about the context lead you to your answer, and why does it make any difference?
- (b) Paul conflates Is. 29:10 & Deut. 29:4 in Rom. 11:8 (recall the context of Deut. 28-30 we studied in the sermon on 10:5-13 and the progression from uncircumcised to circumcised hearts!). Who did the hardening, and why is this fact important?
- (c) Which statement is true and why: “Israel’s hardening produced unbelief” or “Israel’s unbelief caused hardening?”

DAY 5 – ASK FOR INSIGHT

READ THE PASSAGE

- (a) **Read Romans 11:1-10.** Verses 9-10 quote Ps. 69:22-23. Psalm 69 is quoted or alluded to in over a dozen passages in the NT to describe the life, ministry, and death of Christ. Explain Paul’s purpose in quoting them? In other words, what point does he make and how does it further the argument he is making in Romans 9-11?
- (b) How does Paul’s prayer for Jews of his day (and of ours) to be judged for their rejection of Christ (11:9-10) accord with his desire that they be saved (9:2-3 & 10:1), and how does this fact help shape our response to Israel’s continued unbelief?
- (c) Since Paul is describing Israel in his day, and they are still predominantly non-believing today, does the Bible give us any indication of how to determine our stance on the geopolitical issues surrounding Israel today? Explain your answer.

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A Remnant Chosen by Grace

In Romans 11:1-10 Paul answers 2 questions concerning God’s faithfulness to His people.