

Morning Sermon Outline February 21, 2016

Romans 11 "God's Wonderful Ways"

I. Not cast away – Romans 11:1-12

1. Paul offers himself as proof –

I say then, has God cast away His people? Certainly not! For I also am an Israelite, of the seed of Abraham, of the tribe of Benjamin. (Romans 11:1 NKJ)

2. Paul offers the faithful remnant of Elijah's time as further proof –

God has not cast away His people whom He foreknew. Or do you not know what the Scripture says of Elijah, how he pleads with God against Israel, saying, ³ "LORD, they have killed Your prophets and torn down Your altars, and I alone am left, and they seek my life"? ⁴ But what does the divine response say to him? "I have reserved for Myself seven thousand men who have not bowed the knee to Baal." (Romans 11:2-4 NKJ)

A. Remember Elijah lived and ministered during the reign of Ahab and Jezebel!

B. It was a time when most worshipped Baal!

C. The point is, even at that bad time, God preserved for Himself a remnant of faithful men – Romans 11:4

3. This remnant was never according to works or human righteousness, but always according to grace –

Even so then, at this present time there is a remnant according to the election of grace. ⁶ And if by grace, then *it is* no longer of works; otherwise grace is no longer grace. But if *it is* of works, it is no longer grace; otherwise work is no longer work. (Romans 11:5-6 NKJ)

A. Paul Himself was a great example of this –

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. (1 Timothy 1:12-16 NKJ)

- Note God's grace toward Paul is represented as in spite of his being a "blasphemer, a persecutor, and an insolent man;" (1 Timothy 1:13 NKJ)
- However in this Paul is counted a pattern to those who are going to believe on Him for everlasting life. (1 Timothy 1:16 NKJ)

B. This grace is presented as opposite works – Romans 11:6
Works righteousness was what the Jews were trusting in!

4. The Jewish people were not cast away as a people but many were judicially hardened –

What then? Israel has not obtained what it seeks; but the elect have obtained it, and the rest were blinded. ⁸ Just as it is 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." ⁹ And David says: "Let their table become a snare and a trap, A stumbling block and a recompense to them. ¹⁰ Let their eyes be darkened, so that they do not see, and bow down their back always." (Romans 11:7-10 NKJ)

They were "blinded" :7 / given a "spirit of stupor" blinded eyes and deaf ears :8 / Their table became a trap and snare :9 / Their eyes were blackened :10

Notice the passage attributed David verse :9-10 apply to Christ

They also gave me gall for my food, And for my thirst they gave me vinegar to drink. ²² Let their table become a snare before them, And their well-being a trap. ²³ Let their eyes be darkened, so that they do not see; And make their loins shake continually. ²⁴ Pour out Your indignation upon them, And let Your wrathful anger take hold of them. ²⁵ Let their dwelling place be desolate; Let no one live in their tents. (Psalm 69:21-25 NKJ)

²⁹ Now there was set a vessel full of vinegar: and they filled a sponge with vinegar, and put *it* upon hyssop, and put *it* to his mouth.

³⁰ When Jesus therefore had received the vinegar, he said, It is finished: and he bowed his head, and gave up the ghost. (John 19:29-30 KJV)

5. Though Jews were judicially hardened, their fall led to riches to the world -

¹¹ I say then, have they stumbled that they should fall? Certainly not! But through their fall, to provoke them to jealousy, salvation *has come* to the Gentiles. ¹² Now if their fall *is* riches for the world, and their failure riches for the Gentiles, how much more their fullness! (Romans 11:11-12 NKJ)

II. *Gentiles are called to humility and fear –*

For I speak to you Gentiles; inasmuch as I am an apostle to the Gentiles, I magnify my ministry, ¹⁴ if by any means I may provoke to jealousy *those who are my flesh* and save some of them. ¹⁵ For if their being cast away *is the reconciling of the world*, what *will* their acceptance *be* but life from the dead? ¹⁶ For if the firstfruit *is* holy, the lump *is* also *holy*; and if the root *is* holy, so *are* the branches. ¹⁷ And if some of the branches were broken off, and you, being a wild olive tree, were grafted in among them, and with them became a partaker of the root and fatness of the olive tree, ¹⁸ do not boast against the branches. But if you do boast, *remember that you do not support the root, but the root supports you.* ¹⁹ You will say then, "Branches were broken off that I might be grafted in." ²⁰ Well *said*. Because of unbelief they were broken off, and you stand by faith. Do not be haughty, but fear. ²¹ For if God did not spare the natural branches, He may not spare you either. ²² Therefore consider the goodness and severity of God: on those who fell, severity; but toward you, goodness, if you continue in *His* goodness. Otherwise you also will be cut off. ²³ And they also, if they do not continue in unbelief, will be grafted in, for God is able to graft them in again. ²⁴ For if you were cut out of the olive tree which is wild by nature, and were grafted contrary to nature into a cultivated olive tree, how much more will these, who *are* natural *branches*, be grafted into their own olive tree? (Romans 11:13-24 NKJ)

1. *Paul speaks to Gentiles as the apostle of the Gentiles - :13*
 - A. *He would provoke his brethren according to the flesh to jealousy - :14*
 - B. *He argues their receiving would be a great blessing - :15*
2. *The olive tree argument - :16-21*
 - A. *It is holy - :16-17*
 - B. *Don't boast against the broken off branches - :18*
 - C. *They were not broken off because you were great or better than them, they were broken because of unbelief - :19-20*
 - D. *God can chop off unnatural branches too - :21*
3. *Consider the goodness and severity of God - :22-24*
 - A. *Aim to continue in God's goodness, beware of stupor, spiritual blindness, lack of faith - :22*
 - B. *Realize natural branches can be grafted back in - :23-24*

III. *All Israel should praise God for His great grace –*

For I do not desire, brethren, that you should be ignorant of this mystery, lest you should be wise in your own opinion, that blindness in part has happened to Israel until the fullness of the Gentiles has come in. ²⁶ And so all Israel will be saved, as it is written: "The Deliverer will come out of Zion, And He will turn away ungodliness from Jacob;" ²⁷ For this *is* My covenant with them, When I take away their sins." ²⁸ Concerning the gospel *they are* enemies for your sake, but concerning the election *they are* beloved for the sake of the fathers. ²⁹ For the gifts and the calling of God *are* irrevocable. ³⁰ For as you were once disobedient to God, yet have now obtained mercy through their disobedience, ³¹ even so these also have now been disobedient, that through the mercy shown you they also may obtain mercy. ³² For God has committed them all to disobedience, that He might have mercy on all. ³³ Oh, the depth of the riches both of the wisdom and knowledge of God! How unsearchable *are* His judgments and His ways past finding out! ³⁴ "For who has known the mind of the LORD? Or who has become His counselor?" ³⁵ "Or who has first given to Him And it shall be repaid to him?" ³⁶ For of Him and through Him and to Him *are* all things, to whom *be* glory forever. Amen. (Romans 11:25-36 NKJ)

1. *The blindness of Israel is represent as partial and temporary - :25*
2. *All Israel will be saved*
 - A. *Both Jews and Gentiles are called children of Abraham, children of the promise , therefore "all Israel" could refer to spiritual Israel –*

²⁶ For you are all sons of God through faith in Christ Jesus. ²⁷ For as many of you as were baptized into Christ have put on Christ. ²⁸ There is neither Jew nor Greek, there is neither slave nor free, there is neither male nor female; for you are all one in Christ Jesus. ²⁹ And if you *are* Christ's, then you are Abraham's seed, and heirs according to the promise. (Galatians 3:26-29 NKJ)

- B. *Even if "all Israel" does include "spiritual Israel" that fact does not eliminate a future revival of the Jews –*
 - *The Deliver - :26 is Jesus*
 - *God keeps His promises - :29*
 - *God's ultimate goal is mercy upon all :27-32*
3. *Praise God for His unsearchable wisdom - :33-36*

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