

“Raised From the Dead”  
Romans 11:11-16  
(Preached at Trinity, June 13, 2010)

I’m supplying these notes for the benefit of busy pastors who may be engaged in bi-vocational work, feeling the pressure of preparing to preach twice on the Lord’s Day while trying to balance full-time secular work as well as caring for their families. While the notes of another man are no substitute for personal study, I pray that these may aid in the process of preparing to preach.

**Disclaimer:** These are the actual notes I bring with me to the pulpit, which I follow loosely. They are not designed for publication. While I try to make every effort to give proper credit to my sources from the pulpit, adequate citations will sometimes be absent from my notes. If anyone feels their intellectual material has been used without adequate citation, please contact me and I’ll make immediate correction giving credit.

1. As we continue through this chapter we are continually humbled as we strive to draw out the truth from Paul’s words. These verses are challenging to the Bible student.
2. As we’ve seen, **Chapter’s 9, 10, and 11** constitute a section with a common theme. Much of **Chapter 11** covers topics Paul has already introduced in the earlier chapters. Paul is dealing with the condition of the Jews. The great majority had rejected the Gospel—they were accursed and cut off from the blessings of God. Seeking righteousness through the Law, Jesus was a stumbling block to them. At the same time, while they were rejecting the Gospel, the Gentiles were coming in large numbers.
3. The immediate question that comes to mind is what about God’s promises? How can they be God’s chosen people and be in such a position of hardness?
  - A. Has God abandoned His promises? Has He turned from His Word?  
Of course, this would be unthinkable.
  - B. Paul has dealt with this matter already.  
**Romans 9:6** – “Not as though the word of God hath taken none effect. For they *are* not all Israel, which are of Israel.”  
**Romans 11:1** – “I say then, Hath God cast away his people? God forbid.”
  - C. God has not rejected His people but we should be clear about God’s purpose with Israel. It has never been God’s purpose to save all of ethnic Israel.  
NAS **Romans 11:14** – “If somehow I might move to jealousy my fellow countrymen and save some of them.”
4. Paul returns to this question in **verse 11**.  
**Romans 11:11** – “I say then, Have they stumbled that they should fall?”
  - A. Literally Paul is asking, “Have they stumbled that they should fall absolutely and completely.” In other words, is there a full and total rejection of Israel due to their hardness towards Christ? The answer again is, NO!
  - B. God is conducting His redemptive purpose. He is saving His elect people, which includes both Jews and Gentiles.  
In **Verse 11** Paul says that one purpose in the mass salvation of the Gentiles is the provoking of the Jews to jealousy. Paul is referring to the elect Jews. The rest are hardened.
  - C. In **Verse 12** Paul states that the purpose in the hardening of the Jews was the inclusion of the Gentiles that the greatness of God’s Kingdom might be manifest. And how much more will the greatness be manifest when you add in the multitudes of believing Jews.
  - D. In **Verses 13-14** Paul glories in his calling to bring the Gospel to the Gentiles because in doing so he was taking part in provoking the Jews to jealousy.

5. As we come to **Verse 15** Paul declares that the receiving of the Jews unto salvation in Christ is nothing short of life from the dead
- A. Once again, if we have a presupposition that this is speaking of a future fulfillment when God will save all of national Israel then you might see this as a grand resurrection of national Israel.  
James Montgomery Boice speaks boldly – “This is a tremendous prediction, a description of what can only rightly be called a national resurrection. . . Although in Paul’s day the nation was on the verge of ceasing to be a nation, the regathering of the people in our day may be the beginning of events leading to the resurrection of the people about whom Paul is speaking.”  
He goes on to say, “It is the resurrection of that nation that is our chief concern in this passage. We are studying the teaching that the Jews will have a spiritual rebirth in the final days.”
- B. As we’ve seen, however, there is no reason to assume Paul is talking about some future event here. In fact, we have every reason to apply the passage to Paul’s current time—a situation that will continue until the end of history.
6. So what does Paul mean by life from the dead?
- A. He could be talking about the resurrection.  
**1 Corinthians 15:54** – “So when this corruptible shall have put on incorruption, and this mortal shall have put on immortality, then shall be brought to pass the saying that is written, Death is swallowed up in victory.”
- B. But Paul’s talking about present realities—present in his life and present in our life. When Paul speaks of “life from the dead” here he’s talking about that which takes place every time a sinner is brought to faith. He is talking about spiritual life from spiritual death. Paul is speaking of the miracle of regeneration where dead men are brought to life.
7. This morning I want us to examine this resurrection from death to life. What is regeneration?
- I. To begin to understand regeneration it is essential that you understand the nature of the human being before regeneration
- A. All human beings are born spiritually dead
1. Adam’s sin brought not only physical death, it brought spiritual death  
**Romans 5:12** – “Wherefore, as by one man sin entered into the world, and death by sin; and so death passed upon all men, for that all have sinned:”
  2. By death we mean separation – physical death is a separation of the soul from the body. Spiritual death is a separation of the soul from God
- B. This spiritual death brought terrible consequences
1. It left us void of any Spiritual understanding – we are unable to know or understand God. By this I mean we are void of being able to comprehend God.  
**Ephesians 4:18** – “Having the understanding darkened, being alienated from the life of God through the ignorance that is in them, because of the blindness of their heart:”

2. We were created to live to the glory of God. The lost man kicks against this, suppresses it. He hates all that is holy and pleasing to God.  
**Ephesians 2:3** – “Among them we too all formerly lived in the lusts of our flesh, indulging the desires of the flesh and of the mind, and were by nature children of wrath, even as the rest.”
  3. This is why he will not have Christ.
- C. The condition of the lost Jews mirror the condition of all men
1. They hated God’s standard of righteousness
    - a. God demands perfection  
**1 Peter 1:15-16** – “But as he which hath called you is holy, so be ye holy in all manner of conversation; Because it is written, Be ye holy; for I am holy.”
    - b. They were going about to establish their own righteousness through keeping the Law.  
NAS **Romans 10:3** – “For not knowing about God’s righteousness, and seeking to establish their own, they did not subject themselves to the righteousness of God.”
    - c. This is the nature of all religion apart from Christianity – they are all manmade efforts to make themselves right before God.
  2. They resisted God’s claim upon their lives  
**Acts 7:51** – “Ye stiffnecked and uncircumcised in heart and ears, ye do always resist the Holy Ghost: as your fathers *did*, so *do ye*.”
    - a. The Holy Spirit is the Author of all Divine revelation. The Jews had received the God’s Word from the prophets and rejected it.
    - b. Lost humanity hates God’s Word. It represents God’s absolute authority and dominion. They passionately resist it.  
KJV **2 Timothy 4:3** – “For the time will come when they will not endure sound doctrine; but after their own lusts shall they heap to themselves teachers, having itching ears;”  
“itching” – scratch, tickle
  3. The bottom line is they despised Christ and all that pertained to Him
    - a. Paul described their condition as being hardened
    - b. The Scribes and Pharisees made it their top priority to kill Jesus
  4. If they despised Christ they will also despise us  
**John 15:20** – “Remember the word that I said unto you, The servant is not greater than his lord. If they have persecuted me, they will also persecute you; if they have kept my saying, they will keep yours also.”
    - a. Before his conversion Paul made it his chief priority to destroy Christians
    - b. The Jews devoted themselves to killing Paul  
**Acts 9:23-25** – “And after that many days were fulfilled, the Jews took counsel to kill him: <sup>24</sup> But their laying await was known of Saul. And they watched the gates day and night to kill him. <sup>25</sup> Then the disciples took him by night, and let *him* down by the wall in a basket.”

**Acts 23:21** – “more than forty men, which have bound themselves with an oath, that they will neither eat nor drink till they have killed him”

- D. Unless God does something supernatural all men will continue in this spiritual death
1. Jesus confirmed this:  
**John 6:44** – “No man can come to me, except the Father which hath sent me draw him: and I will raise him up at the last day.”
  2. Something has to be done to us that is as supernatural as God calling forth the light to shine out of darkness on the day of creation.  
**2 Corinthians 4:6** – “For God, who commanded the light to shine out of darkness, hath shined in our hearts, to *give* the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ.”
  3. This is precisely what occurs at the new birth

## II. Regeneration is a birth from spiritual death to spiritual life

- A. It is the beginning of spiritual understanding  
**John 3:3** – “Jesus answered and said unto him, Verily, verily, I say unto thee, Except a man be born again, he cannot see the kingdom of God.”
1. Most people think Jesus is talking about heaven or some future manifestation of Christ’s reign – but much more is being taught here
  2. Our Lord’s Kingdom is the manifestation of His rule and dominion – It is manifested though the lives of His people  
The parables of Jesus taught about various aspects of His Kingdom
  3. Jesus is saying that without the new birth it would be impossible to perceive or comprehend the Kingdom
    - a. From the verb ὁράω – perceive
    - b. Only the Disciples of Christ could understand the Parables  
**Mark 4:11-12** – “And he said unto them, Unto you it is given to know the mystery of the kingdom of God: but unto them that are without, all *these* things are done in parables: <sup>12</sup> That seeing they may see (βλέπω), and not perceive (ὁράω); and hearing they may hear, and not understand; lest at any time they should be converted, and *their* sins should be forgiven them.”
- B. The new birth must occur before faith and repentance will be possible
1. How can a dead man do anything?!
  2. If the new birth doesn’t occur the sinner will remain dead  
Dead men do not make decisions!
- C. It is a supernatural work of God
1. It is by grace
  2. The reason billions are not embracing the Gospel of Christ is because they can’t. They can’t because they are dead.
  3. This is why awakened sinners can have such confidence – the lost man hardened in sin would never desire Christ.  
I didn’t say they don’t want heaven  
I didn’t say they don’t want to get out of hell  
I didn’t even say they don’t want religion  
But they don’t want Christ

### III. What are the results of Regeneration?

- A. Paul describes it as “life from the dead”
  - 1. This describes the transformation of life
  - 2. The converted Jews were transformed to love God, love Christ, love His Word, love His Law, love His people  
Look at Paul!
- B. This is true for every believer
  - 1. He will have a hunger for righteousness  
**Matthew 5:6** – “Blessed *are* they which do hunger and thirst after righteousness: for they shall be filled.”
  - 2. He will have spiritual understanding
    - a. He is no longer motivated by worldly things  
**1 John 2:15** – “Love not the world, neither the things *that are* in the world. If any man love the world, the love of the Father is not in him.”
    - b. He will have a transformed mind  
We are changed from lovers of self to lovers of God.

#### Conclusion:

- 1. Jesus make it clear, “Ye must be born again.”  
Salvation is a conversion, a transformation  
**2 Corinthians 5:17** – “Therefore if any man *be* in Christ, *he is* a new creature: old things are passed away; behold, all things are become new.”
- 2. Paul describes it here as “life from the dead.”  
See **Ezekiel 37:1-7**