

Message #40**Romans 11:25-36**

Years ago, I was in a service where the minister said Jesus loves me this I know for the Bible tells me so and this is really all I need to know.

It was touching, but it isn't true. You need to know much more than just that. If that is all you needed to know, God would not have given 66 books and expected His people to study to rightly divide every one of them.

When Paul begins verse 25, he says, “For I do not want you, brethren, to be uninformed.”

Paul uses the Greek word (agnoew) which is the word from which we get our English word “agnostic.” The word means ignorant with no knowledge (G. Abbott-Smith, *Greek Lexicon*, p. 6). Paul is saying I don't want God's people to be ignorant simpletons who have no knowledge about the dispensational outworking of the Program of God and the Grace of God.

Why would God prompt Paul to tell Gentile brethren who are believers in the Church Age that He does not want them uninformed about the entire program of God that He has with Israel, and the entire program of God that He has with the Gentiles?

Why did Paul go to all the trouble to lay out the deep doctrine of these chapters? Let me suggest that **unless you understand the program of God with the Gentiles, and the program of God with national Israel, you will never understand the Bible.**

If you don't understand the difference between Israel, Gentiles and the Church, you will end up very confused and the Bible will be a maze of things that for the most part won't make too much sense to you.

So if someone says, isn't it enough to know that Jesus loves me and I'm saved? The answer is no, it isn't enough. Paul did not believe that. It is very clear that God expects the believers in His church to know His program that relates to the Church, to the Gentiles and to Israel.

That point is clear right here. What Paul says is this:

GOD DOES NOT WANT HIS PEOPLE UNINFORMED OF HIS ETERNAL PROGRAM WITH THE JEWS AND WITH THE GENTILES, AND THE KNOWLEDGE OF THAT SOVEREIGN PROGRAM SHOULD PROMPT BELIEVERS TO ACKNOWLEDGE AND PRAISE GOD'S GREATNESS.

The knowledge of these powerful things about God should leave us standing in awe of God and praising God. It should leave us thankful for God's sovereign work in our life. This passage, if viewed properly, will leave us humbled that God's sovereign program included you and me.

There are two specific phases to the program of God of which He wants His people to specifically have knowledge:

PHASE #1 – God is presently working out His program with Gentiles. **11:25**

When we read **verse 25**, there are three facts that leap from the verse:

- 1) God does not want us uninformed or misinformed.
- 2) God does not want us arrogantly thinking more highly of ourselves than we should.
- 3) God does want us to realize that the hardening of Israel and program with Gentiles is temporary.

Now the main point here is that God's people should not be ignorant concerning the fact that God has temporarily blinded Israel until He has completed His program with the Gentiles.

God has temporarily and partially blinded Israel until He has finished His program with the Gentiles.

Now a Biblical mystery is not a secret no one knows, it is a revelation that God chooses to reveal in His time. What God wants His people to know is that He has temporarily moved His sovereign program away from Israel so He could save sinners who, for the most part, are Gentiles.

There is nothing here that we should boast about, except in what God has sovereignly done.

Now there are two programs that are mentioned in **verse 25** and one that is missing:

- 1) There is the mention of God's program with Israel.
- 2) There is the mention of God's program with the Gentiles.
- 3) There is no mention of God's program with the Church.

It is plainly stated that there is a partial hardening of mind and heart that God has temporarily allowed to happen to the nation Israel until the "fullness of the Gentiles has come."

One of the key passages of Scripture that testifies of the purpose of the Gentile program is Acts 15:13-18. Paul and Barnabas were testifying before the Apostles in Jerusalem of the fact that God was saving Gentile people, who were not circumcised (Acts 15:2-:3).

So the Apostles and Elders had a meeting to look into this (Acts 15:6). After there had been much debate, Peter stood up and said he had seen Gentiles believe and receive the Holy Spirit by his preaching (Acts 15:7-11).

It was at that point that James, the half-brother of the Lord, stood up and said this: "Simeon has related how God first concerned Himself about taking from among the Gentiles a people for His name. With this the words of the Prophets agree, just as it is written, 'After these things I will return, and I will rebuild the tabernacle of David which has fallen, and I will rebuild its ruins, and I will restore it, so that the rest of mankind may seek the Lord, and all the Gentiles who are called by My name,' says the Lord, who makes these things known from long ago" (**Acts 15:14-18**).

What Simeon said is that God's program is right now calling out Gentile people for His name. Once He has completed this program, God will go back to a program with Israel and this sovereign plan was designed by God long ago. It is now revealed to us what is happening.

Now based on this data, we may come to four important conclusions:

- 1) The present purpose of God is not to stamp out sin. God will do that when that time comes.
- 2) The present purpose of God is not to bring peace to the world.
- 3) The present purpose of God is not to give us specific land.
- 4) The present purpose of God is not to make this world a better place to live.

The purpose of God right now is, for the most part, to call out people from the Gentile world and save them and put them into His family and develop them for His glory.

How does God do that presently?

- 1) Through salvation - He sovereignly saves individuals by the preaching of the word.
- 2) Through education - He instructs His people so they may grow by the study of the word.
- 3) Through service - He gives people different gifts to minister, by application of the word.

PHASE #2 – God will eventually finish His program with Israel. **11:26-32**

Paul begins verse 26 by saying one day all of the nation Israel will be saved. When God has completed His program with Gentiles, He will reboot the program with national Israel and nationally save her.

When Paul says, "all Israel will be saved," He is referring to the nation Israel as a whole, not every individual Jew. This very point is stressed in Ezekiel 20:39-44. Paul says God's people in the Church Age need to know this.

There are five stated reasons in this text why God must finish the program with Israel:

Reason #1 - Because it is written in Scripture. **11:26**

God must finish His program with Israel because that is what He said He would do in His written word. God cannot lie and He cannot go back on His word.

Paul quotes Isaiah 59:20-21 to show that this matter of saving Israel is a prediction made in God's word in the Old Testament. Now God can't just forget about that. His own true character demands that He fulfills what He promised.

The Apostle Paul said that in the context of unfaithful believers. He said in II Timothy 2:13– "If we are faithless, He remains faithful for He cannot deny Himself."

God cannot ever go back on a promise He has made. People can and do all the time, but God can't. People go back on their word all the time in contractual agreements, marriages, different pledges and vows, various commitments and memberships.

God does not operate like that. A key reason why God must finish the program with Israel is the same reason He must take us to heaven. It isn't because we are so great; it is because He has said that is what He will do.

God has said it in His written word and it will happen just as He said it would.

Reason #2 - Because it is a covenant of God. **11:27**

This verse is still part of the Isaiah quote and Paul uses it to make a point. God must finish His program with Israel because He has made a covenant with Israel to do so.

That word "covenant" means that God has made a "legal document" with Israel that guarantees her legal rights. God has a legal, binding agreement with Israel and He is obligated to fulfill it.

When God makes a covenant agreement with the nation Israel, He must do what He promises He will do. In Jeremiah 31:31-34, God says because of this covenant it is impossible for Israel to be cast off. He said, "the days are coming."

Now if you want to see something humbling, look at Hebrews 13:20-21. The same God who has made a national covenant with Israel has made an individual covenant with us. He has entered into a covenant relationship with us that guarantees us everlasting life.

Reason #3 - Because of the election of God. **11:28**

Paul says even though at the present time it appears that they are the enemies of the gospel, the fact is they are God's chosen nation. Israel is God's elect nation.

The word "choice" or "election" scares many people but actually it is a wonderful word that saves people. Israel is God's chosen elect nation and that is a fact. No human nor any Satanic power can change this reality. God will fulfill His promises because God has elected His nation.

Don't forget what Paul wrote in Romans 9:24. God's elective purposes include individual Gentiles.

Reason #4 - Because of the immutability of God. **11:29**

God cannot ever go back on His promises to Israel because the gifts and callings of God are irrevocable.

This whole package of salvation for Israel and us is a gift and it is a calling from God. When God gives His salvific gift to someone and calls them, He cannot go back on His word.

Reason #5 - Because of the mercy of God. **11:30-32**

Notice the four-fold repetition of the word “mercy.” The word means to have mercy or show pity or have compassion on someone helpless (*Ibid.*, p. 145).

God says I am not going to save Israel because Israel deserves it. I am not going to save sinners because they deserve it. I am going to save national Israel and individual sinners because it displays My mercy.

The salvation of national Israel and the salvation of individual Gentiles makes a profound statement about God—He is a merciful God.

Whenever I elect someone and save them, it displays My mercy.

Now Paul was thinking about all of this—national program with Israel, inclusion of Gentiles, finish the program with Israel, and he broke out into this doxology about God and His amazing plan:

Now in **verses 33-36**, we see how this data affected Paul.

- 1) The sovereign program of God is deep—as deep as the depths of the sea.
- 2) The sovereign program of God is rich—extreme level of wealth and riches.
- 3) The sovereign program of God is rooted in God’s deep and rich wisdom—absolute skill.
- 4) The sovereign program of God is rooted in God’s deep and rich knowledge—expert level.
- 5) The sovereign judgments of God are unsearchable—cannot research or examine.
- 6) The sovereign ways of God are unfathomable—cannot be grasped or traced.
- 7) No one knows the mind of God—God has a mind that has reason, understanding, thought.
- 8) No one can give any counsel to God—no one can advise, counsel or be God’s consultant.
- 9) No one has first given God anything—God has given everything first to everyone.
- 10) All things are from God—all things are literally out from within God.
- 11) All things are through God—all things go through God first before they ever go to humans.
- 12) All things are to God—all things actually lead into an exaltation of God.
- 13) To God belongs glory forever.

AMEN—Truly.