

“ANYONE CAN BE SAVED, PART 2”

Romans 9-11

Series: “A Study of Romans: This is Good News!”

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ICE BREAKER: What time do you most often turn in for the night? 1) 8 p.m. or earlier. 2) 9 p.m. 3) 10 p.m. 4) 11 p.m. 5) Midnight. 6) 1 a.m. or later.

VIDEO: What does it take to get into heaven? A good life? The right family? Status? Use this humorous video illustration to teach that faith in Jesus Christ is the only way to receive eternal salvation. About 2 minutes. <https://app.rightnowmedia.org/en/content/details/99581>

“ANYONE CAN BE SAVED, PART 2”

INTRODUCTION: Theme of Romans 9-11:

- A. No one is saved simply because they’re Jewish. But anyone can be saved if they will call on the name of the Lord.
 - 1. This is good timing to study this passage since Israel is headline news every day and Americans are divided on how to respond.
 - 2. Are the Jews still God’s chosen people? And as Christians should we support the Nation of Israel?
- B. What does the Bible say?

Summary of Romans 9-11 (We covered the first four points last week; we’ll cover the last 3 today.)

- 1. The Jews are God’s chosen people to bring about the Messiah. (Rom. 9:5)
- 2. Though they are called, most Jews are not saved. (Rom. 10:1)
- 3. The Jews can be saved by trusting in the Jewish Messiah (Jesus). (Rom. 10:9, 12)
- 4. The Jews need someone to preach the Gospel to them. (Rom. 10:14)
- 5. The Jews are still God’s chosen people. (Rom 11:1)
- 6. The Jews have rejected the Gospel, for a time, to the benefit of the Gentiles. (Rom 11:12)
- 7. The Jews will be “grafted back in” if they don’t persist in their unbelief. (Rom 11:23)

V. THE JEWS ARE STILL GOD’S CHOSEN PEOPLE.

- A. Some people say God is finished with the Jews and the church is now the new Israel. This teaching is called “Replacement Theology.”
 - 1. Paul, led by the Holy Spirit, anticipates this extreme response, so he opens chapter 11 by clearing up this potential misconception.

I ask then: Did God reject his people? By no means! I am an Israelite myself, a descendant of Abraham, from the tribe of Benjamin. God did not reject his people, whom he foreknew. [Romans 11:1-2a NIV]

2. Those he foreknew = the remnant of Jewish people who are saved and make up “spiritual Israel,” a subset of physical Israel.

...Don't you know what Scripture says in the passage about Elijah--how he appealed to God against Israel: "Lord, they have killed your prophets and torn down your altars; I am the only one left, and they are trying to kill me"? And what was God's answer to him? "I have reserved for myself seven thousand who have not bowed the knee to Baal." So too, at the present time there is a remnant chosen by grace. [Romans 11:2b-6 NIV]

B. APPLICATION:

1. If the Jews are still God's chosen people, then we should respect and honor the Jewish people and the nation of Israel.

VI. THE JEWS HAVE REJECTED THE GOSPEL, FOR A TIME, TO THE BENEFIT OF THE GENTILES.

A. SCRIPTURE.

Again, I ask: Did they stumble so as to fall beyond recovery? Not at all! Rather, because of their transgression, salvation has come to the Gentiles to make Israel envious. Paul says this is one of the reasons he preaches to the Gentiles: ...in the hope that I may somehow arouse my own people to envy and save some of them. For if their rejection brought reconciliation to the world, what will their acceptance be but life from the dead? [Romans 11:11-15 NIV]

1. When Jews who had rejected Christ turn back to Jesus as their Messiah, it's going to be like a resurrection from the dead.

B. APPLICATION.

1. We should live out our faith and treat the Jewish people in such a way that they are drawn to our faith in their Messiah.
2. We should be humble and not arrogant.

If some of the branches have been broken off, and you, though a wild olive shoot, have been grafted in among the others and now share in the nourishing sap from the olive root, do not consider yourself to be superior to those other branches. If you do, consider this: You do not support the root, but the root supports you. You will say then, "Branches were broken off so that I could be grafted in." Granted. But they were broken off because of unbelief, and you stand by faith. Do not be arrogant, but tremble. For if God did not spare the natural branches, he will not spare you either. Consider therefore the kindness and sternness of God: sternness to those who fell, but kindness to you, provided that you continue in his kindness. Otherwise, you also will be cut off. [Romans 11:17-22 NIV]

SIDE ROAD: Is it possible for a person of genuine faith to change their mind?

1. Christians debate the answer. We can agree on this: Only through faith in Jesus are we saved, and no one should expect to be saved who does not have faith in Jesus.

VII. THE JEWS WILL BE “GRAFTED BACK IN” IF THEY DON'T PERSIST IN THEIR UNBELIEF.

A. SCRIPTURE.

And if they do not persist in unbelief, they will be grafted in, for God is able to graft them in again. I do not want you to be ignorant of this mystery, brothers and sisters, so that you may not be conceited: Israel has experienced a hardening in part until the full number of the Gentiles has come in, and in this way all Israel will be saved. As it is written: "The deliverer will come from Zion; he will turn godlessness away from Jacob. [Romans 11:23-26 NIV]

1. Some say Paul is simply referring to what happened in the first century. Others say this is a prophecy that after the "full number" of Gentiles has come in, near the second coming of Christ, God will pour out his Spirit on the Jews and a vast number will turn to him and be saved.
2. In determining our view of Bible prophecy, we should consider the dramatic fulfillments we have seen in our lifetime. Most notably, Israel becoming a nation in 1948, which was a fulfillment of Ezekiel 37.
3. See also Jesus' prophecies in Matthew 24:32-34:

"Now learn this lesson from the fig tree: As soon as its twigs get tender and its leaves come out, you know that summer is near. Even so, when you see all these things, you know that it is near, right at the door. Truly I tell you, this generation will certainly not pass away until all these things have happened. [Matthew 24:32-34 NIV]

4. Many believe this means that at least one person who was alive in 1948 when Israel became a nation will still be alive when Jesus returns.

B. APPLICATION: Recapping:

1. The Jews are still God's chosen people, so let's respect and honor them.
2. The Jews' rejection of Gospel has benefited those of us who are Gentiles. We're grafted in by his grace. So, let's be thankful and humble.
3. The Jews can be grafted back in if they don't persist in unbelief. And perhaps a vast number will be soon saved.
4. So, we should...
 - a. Pray for the salvation of the Jewish people.
 - b. Pray for the salvation of the full number of Gentiles.
 - c. Pray for the soon return of Christ.

CONCLUSION: Paul concludes this section of Scripture with a beautiful hymn, celebrating God's ingenious plan to save us.

Oh, the depth of the riches of the wisdom and knowledge of God! How unsearchable his judgments, and his paths beyond tracing out! "Who has known the mind of the Lord? Or who has been his counselor?" "Who has ever given to God, that God should repay them?" For from him and through him and for him are all things. To him be the glory forever! Amen. [Rom 11:33-36 NIV]

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. Pastor Rusty told us that the last three chapters (9-11) have been a summary of the salvation history of Israel. What do you see as the main points that we should know from these three chapters. Why do you think this is important to us as current believers?
2. Pastor Rusty points out that Paul uses an olive tree to teach a lesson about salvation. What can we learn about salvation theology from an olive tree? What are the branches? What is the wild olive shoot?
3. What hope do you see the Jews ever having of recovering their relationship with God? (11:11) How have Gentiles been helped by the Jews' rejection of God's salvation plan? (11:11-12) What will be an even greater result than just the response of the Gentiles to God's plan?
4. The Apostle tells us to be careful about boasting. Why do you think we need to be careful not to boast that God has reached out to us? What do you feel Paul means in saying this remnant is chosen by grace? Considering how often Paul is warning against Christian boasting, arrogance and conceit, do you feel God is trying to tell us something? What are some examples you've seen of this kind of behavior by Christians, or by Christian "leaders?"
5. What do you feel Paul means in saying this remnant is chosen by grace? What do you think it means to be hardened by God? Can you think of times in Jesus' life when He confronted "hardened" people? If people were hardened by God, do you feel they are responsible for their actions? Why/why not?
6. Paul is talking about God's kindness to we who were "grafted" into His family. What do you feel he means by saying, "if you continue in His kindness?" If we were to live in His kindness, how would we feel about those who have not yet been grafted in? How would we feel about the branches who have been "broken" off?

Challenge #1 Spend time each day this week praying for the Jewish nation, that they might come to Christ.

Challenge #2: Encourage your group to memorize Scripture. If you haven't already memorized this passage work on it this week. ***Oh, the depth of the riches of the wisdom and knowledge of God! How unsearchable his judgments, and his paths beyond tracing out! "Who has known the mind of the Lord? Or who has been his counselor?" "Who has ever given to God, that God should repay them?" For from him and through him and for him are all things. To him be the glory forever! Amen. [Rom 11:33-36 NIV]***

Wrapping Up and Preparation for Next Week:

1. Pray for Israel.
2. Pray for those that have recently been baptized at New Day that they might walk in the Spirit.
3. Pray that 2024 will be a year that you are able to bring someone to Christ.
4. Pray for those still dealing with insurance and repairs on their homes. Continue to pray for those that still need repairs or those that are still homeless due to Hurricane Ian?
5. Take time with your group for prayer requests.