

Walking Through Romans to Christ

Romans chapter 11 “Being Part of God’s Olive Tree”

Righteousness by Faith Series

Opening/REVIEW: *Where did we leave Israel in our last chapter? (v.21)—They are in rebellion—a state of deaf ears to the counsel of God. God has a problem—it’s his people. They are very hard to work with.*

1. **When there is great apostasy in Israel—does God cast off the entire nation? (v.1-5)**
 - a. God has a few people among His people who are faithful. (Just as it is today—much worldliness has come in, but God has his faithful ones). There is a “remnant” who are faithful (v.5). In this case specifically these are made of up the Jews who did receive Christ!
 - b. (v.3) Are there people who have “killed the prophets” today? (turned away from the truth)
 - c. Is it okay to cry out against it? Yes. Elijah did. Are you still faithful to God’s Israel when you speak out against evils being done in Israel? Certainly! Isn’t that just being critical? No. It doesn’t have to be. It can be constructive. **Ezekiel 9:4 pictures “...those that sigh and cry for all the abominations...”** done in Israel.
2. **Chosen as a nation by God’s grace (v.6-10)**
 - a. (v.6,7) **What about these chosen people within the chosen nation (who are faithful)?** (Why are they privileged while the others are blinded?)
 - b. (v.8-10) **Is God blinding people because He doesn’t want them to see the truth? (No!)**
 - i. We blind ourselves—God gives us up to what we choose (**See Romans 1:24, 26, 28**)
 - ii. Jesus mentioned this (**Luke 8:10**) “seeing they will not see.” Jesus did not want to “cast his pearls before swine” (Matthew 7:6). Some cannot and will not appreciate God’s truth. They’re not willing to receive it! Therefore, God allows them to be blind to it.
 - iii. This is like with the prophecies of Daniel too (ref. Daniel 12:10).
 - iv. The Holy Spirit is our teacher—If we resist the Holy Spirit then the result will be spiritual blindness (**John 14:26**). God is the one who gives understanding!
 - v. Those with an “**honest and good heart**” (open to it) will receive the truth (**Luke 8:8, 15**)
3. **God moves His special attention to those who will listen (v.11-15)** (a good evangelism principle)
 - a. He does not “cast his pearls before swine” (Matthew 7:6). God does not waste His precious jewels of truth upon those who will entirely decline His truth, and attack His messengers. These will never have true understanding if they desire to continue fighting against God.
 - b. (v.11) “Salvation has come to the gentiles.” Paul declared, “seeing you judge yourselves unworthy of eternal life, lo, we turn to the gentiles” (**Acts 13:46**).
 - c. (v.12,15) The Jewish Nation did not have to be cast off for the Gentiles to come in. They could have received the true message of faith in Christ, and been the first to carry it “as a whole nation” to the entire world! But, they would not have it!
 - d. How nice it would be for Israel to accept the Savior/Messiah (Jesus Christ). It would be “life from the dead” (v.15). Like Dry bones being revived again (**Ezekiel 37:1-3**). (some of us need this same revival today—we need more of Jesus)
4. **The Privilege of Being Part of God’s Olive Tree** (not a right, but a privilege of FAITH) (**v.16-21**)

- a. *The root is what supports the branches. None should of a haughty attitude toward Israel! Our line of faith came through that very nation, though most are in ignorance to the truth. Do not let your heart be glad when one stumbles. The Lord may see it a be displeased (Proverbs 24:17,18).*

5. Necessity of Remaining in that Olive tree by Faith (v.21-24)

- a. Goodness AND Severity. Both may be seen and justly demonstrated in the character of God **(Exodus 34:7)**.
- b. (v.22) “if we continue...” We have a personal responsibility to remain “in Christ.” It is not “once saved, always saved” as some of taught. No!! It is entirely possible for one to wander away from Christ and be lost in their days after receiving the gift of salvation. Christ does not just let go of us! No. The problem is, that sometimes, we’ve let go of Him! (See also Jude 1:5,6; 1 Corinthians 9:7; Colossians 1:23). *“Abide [Remain] in me, and I in you, as the branch cannot bear fruit of itself... neither can you unless you abide [remain] in me” (John 15:4, NKJV). We must faithfully choose Christ as our Savior AND Lord.*
- c. Are the Jews by blood God’s special People in the last days? Not exactly. The spiritual Jews or believers in Christ are counted as the faithful remnant today—both of Jews and Gentiles. Unbelievers in Christ are “cut off” (v.22) from the blessings and privileges of the olive tree—whether natural Jew or Gentile.

6. God shows great Mercy towards UNBELIEVERS WHO WANT to be BELIEVERS (v.25-32)

- a. (v.26,27) “all Israel” (See Romans 9:6-8, 27, 28; Matthew 3:9-10) All Israel refers to Faith Israel.
- b. (v.28, 29) “Concerning the gospel they are enemies for your sake...” The Jews had been entirely against the believers in Christ—enemies to them because of the gospel. For the “sake of the fathers” though, Israel still has a claim to some ancient favor and blessing from their history.
- c. (v.29-32) Israel had received many blessings and promises (given to their fathers) that they were to be the chosen nation. But, by their disobedience, they had allowed that very glory and promise to pass on to the Gentiles (see 1 Peter 2:6-10). Christ said their “house” would be left unto them as desolate; the blessing would be given to another nation or people (Matthew 23:38; 21:42, 43).

7. Standing in AWE at the Contemplation of God’s Ways (v.33-36)

Today’s Appeal: Will you choose to serve Christ, remaining in Him and His family tree of faith? _____