

**"God's Relationship with Israel"**

**Romans 9-11**

**Part 21**

**Introduction:** Last week in our study of Romans we looked at the first 5 verses of Romans 11.

**Notice Romans 11:1-5**

Paul explained in these verses that while Israel had rejected God, He had not rejected them. Paul pointed back to Elijah's day when Elijah thought he was the only true follower of God and then God announced to him there were 7000 that had not bowed the knee to Jezebel's god, Baal.

**1 Kings 19:7-10**

*<sup>10</sup> And he said, I have been very jealous for the LORD God of hosts: for the children of Israel have forsaken thy covenant, thrown down thine altars, and slain thy prophets with the sword; and I, even I only, am left; and they seek my life, to take it away.*

Elijah could see no evidence of any believers in his day. He saw himself as the only one who had not forsaken God. But he was wrong.

**1 Kings 19:18**

*<sup>18</sup> Yet I have left me seven thousand in Israel, all the knees which have not bowed unto Baal, and every mouth which hath not kissed him.*

**Notice Romans 11:4-5 again.**

Just like in Elijah's day when God had 7000 men who were true to Him, so it is true today and it was true in Paul's day that there is a small remnant of Jews who are saved. Last week we looked at the phrase "at this present time" and we considered what God is doing at this present time. He is taking a people for His name from among the Gentiles, which ultimately, He is building His church.

**Acts 15:14**

*<sup>14</sup> Simeon hath declared how God at the first did visit the Gentiles, to take out of them a people for his name.*

**Matthew 16:18**

*<sup>18</sup> And I say also unto thee, That thou art Peter, and upon this rock I will build my church; and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it.*

**"God's Relationship with Israel in the Future"**

**Part 2**

**Notice Romans 11:5 again.**

This remnant of Jews who are saved are according to the "ELECTION OF GRACE". The question is, "What does this mean"?

In the age which we are living in "THE ELECT" or "THE ELECTION" pertains to the church. We have looked at THE ELECT previously and we discussed how ELECTION always pertains to a group of individuals. There are three groups in the Bible referred to as the elect.

**1. Israel**

**Isaiah 45:4**

*<sup>4</sup> For Jacob my servant's sake, and Israel mine elect, I have even called thee by thy name: I have surnamed thee, though thou hast not known me.*

**2. Righteous angels**

**1 Timothy 5:21**

*<sup>21</sup> I charge thee before God, and the Lord Jesus Christ, and the elect angels, that thou observe these things without preferring one before another, doing nothing by partiality.*

**3. Church**

**Colossians 3:10-12**

*<sup>10</sup> And have put on the new man, which is renewed in knowledge after the image of him that created him:*

*<sup>11</sup> Where there is neither Greek nor Jew, circumcision nor uncircumcision, Barbarian, Scythian, bond nor free: but Christ is all, and in all.*

*<sup>12</sup> Put on therefore, as the elect of God, holy and beloved, bowels of mercies, kindness, humbleness of mind, meekness, longsuffering;*

Each of these ELECT groups function as God's representatives. In Paul's day just as in our day the church, as the elect, is called to represent God to a sinful world. The invitation for all to enter into the group of THE ELECT is by grace.

**Ephesians 2:8**

<sup>8</sup> For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of God:

God had predestined that His Son would have a bride known as the church, the church would be His ELECT in the sense that they would represent Him to the world, the invitation to become a member of the church is extended to all, and whosoever comes to Jesus Christ is saved by grace, which is how the remnant of Jews are saved thus it is the election of grace.

**Notice Romans 11:6**

Let us keep in mind that that most of the Jews strive to keep the Law in order to be accepted by God, but in this verse, Paul makes it very clear that works has NOTHING to do with salvation.

Before we examine this verse closely, I want to bring up a teaching that is very popular in many circles. There are those who teach that we are saved by grace PLUS works. There are those we are saved by grace and KEPT saved by works after we are saved. There are some who teach that God does His part to save us and then we must DO our part to attain and to keep our salvation. This verse that we are about to examine COMPLETELY eliminates works pertaining to salvation.

**Notice Romans 11:6 again.**

Paul has just stated in the previous verse that the remnant is saved by grace and so we must understand the mind of the unsaved Jew who wants to add works to salvation. So, here in this verse Paul tells his readers that if salvation is by grace as the Bible teaches there cannot be any works involved because if works are involved then grace is no more grace, but grace is then excluded. Grace and works are like oil and water, or like light and darkness, which means the two cannot exist together pertaining to salvation.

Paul then flips his thought and he tells his readers if salvation is by works there can then be no grace involved for when grace comes in works are no more works.

If salvation is by works, then it is earned. If it is by grace it is then given as a gift. It is an unmerited favor. It cannot be both ways. So, we must understand that we are saved by grace and we are kept saved by grace. We can in no way bring works into salvation. The teaching of grace and works for salvation was brought into the church at Galatia and I want you to notice what Paul wrote:

**Galatians 1:6-8**

<sup>6</sup> I marvel that ye are so soon removed from him that called you into the grace of Christ unto another gospel:

<sup>7</sup> Which is not another; but there be some that trouble you, and would pervert the gospel of Christ.

<sup>8</sup> But though we, or an angel from heaven, preach any other gospel unto you than that which we have preached unto you, let him be accursed.

To add works in any way to salvation is to preach another gospel which is a false gospel. Notice what else Paul told the Galatians:

**Galatians 3:1-3**

*O foolish Galatians, who hath bewitched you, that ye should not obey the truth, before whose eyes Jesus Christ hath been evidently set forth, crucified among you?*

<sup>2</sup> *This only would I learn of you, Received ye the Spirit by the works of the law, or by the hearing of faith?*

<sup>3</sup> *Are ye so foolish? having begun in the Spirit, are ye now made perfect by the flesh?*

We are saved by grace and we are kept saved by grace. Works did not save us, and works do not keep us saved.

I must also add that works are the results of salvation.

**James 2:15-20**

<sup>15</sup> *If a brother or sister be naked, and destitute of daily food,*

<sup>16</sup> *And one of you say unto them, Depart in peace, be ye warmed and filled; notwithstanding ye give them not those things which are needful to the body; what doth it profit?*

<sup>17</sup> *Even so faith, if it hath not works, is dead, being alone.*

<sup>18</sup> *Yea, a man may say, Thou hast faith, and I have works: shew me thy faith without thy works, and I will shew thee my faith by my works.*

<sup>19</sup> *Thou believest that there is one God; thou doest well: the devils also believe, and tremble.*

<sup>20</sup> *But wilt thou know, O vain man, that faith without works is dead?*

**Ephesians 2:8-10**

<sup>8</sup> *For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of God:*

<sup>9</sup> Not of works, lest any man should boast.

<sup>10</sup> For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus unto good works, which God hath before ordained that we should walk in them.

**Notice Romans 11:7**

Israel did obtain that which they have sought for. In chapter 10 we were able to see what they sought for.

**Romans 10:2-3**

<sup>2</sup> For I bear them record that they have a zeal of God, but not according to knowledge.

<sup>3</sup> For they being ignorant of God's righteousness, and going about to establish their own righteousness, have not submitted themselves unto the righteousness of God.

They have sought to establish their own righteousness by the works of the Law and they have fallen way short. The ELECTION/remnant hath obtained it by grace. But the rest have rejected the righteousness of God and they have been blinded.

**2 Corinthians 3:11-16**

<sup>11</sup> For if that which is done away was glorious, much more that which remaineth is glorious.

<sup>12</sup> Seeing then that we have such hope, we use great plainness of speech:

<sup>13</sup> And not as Moses, which put a veil over his face, that the children of Israel could not stedfastly look to the end of that which is abolished:

<sup>14</sup> But their minds were blinded: for until this day remaineth the same veil untaken away in the reading of the old testament; which veil is done away in Christ.

<sup>15</sup> But even unto this day, when Moses is read, the veil is upon their heart.

<sup>16</sup> Nevertheless when it shall turn to the Lord, the veil shall be taken away.

**Notice Romans 11:7 again.**

Let me show you the words of McClain:

**The rest were "blinded" judicially. The retribution of God fell upon a people who first closed their eyes. If a man says, "I will not," there may come a time when he will say, "I cannot"**

Notice Romans 11:8-10

The word "slumber here in verse 8 is very important. It means "stupor" and so the unbelieving Jews have been given a spirit of stupor which means "to be dull and insensitive". The thought here needs desperately to be understood. Because Israel had been confronted with the Truth of the Scriptures and because Jesus Christ had come and He performed many miracles in their presence and they rejected Him and condemned Him to be crucified, they became spiritually dull and insensitive. This was the judgment of God upon them. They were blinded judicially.

**Conclusion/Application:**

This is exactly why it is so dangerous for people to suppress the Truth which is presented to them today. The more they suppress the Truth the more spiritually dull and the more spiritually insensitive they become.

Let me show you what this looks like in the conversation between Abraham and the rich man in hell.

**Luke 16:28-31**

*<sup>28</sup> For I have five brethren; that he may testify unto them, lest they also come into this place of torment.*

*<sup>29</sup> Abraham saith unto him, They have Moses and the prophets; let them hear them.*

*<sup>30</sup> And he said, Nay, father Abraham: but if one went unto them from the dead, they will repent.*

*<sup>31</sup> And he said unto him, If they hear not Moses and the prophets, neither will they be persuaded, though one rose from the dead.*