



ROMANS

The Gospel of God

The Gospel of Goodness and Severity!

Romans 11:11-24

Message #23 of 33 – S1152

Sermon given on May 25, 2025



Sunday Morning Service

Pastor Rick Lancaster

The Gospel of Goodness and Severity!

Romans 11:11-24

Opening Comments

- Open your Bibles to **Romans 11**
- Today, we continue the series through the letter to the Romans – **The Gospel of God!**
- Let's open this time in our service with a word of prayer. - **Pray**

Teaching

- **The Gospel of Goodness and Severity!**
- One of the characteristics of God is that He is good.
- There is a call and response that is fairly common in the church.
- Say it out loud if you know the response. God is good... All the time...
- We say things like this to remind ourselves of just how good God is.
- That is especially important when things in life are not good.
- When life is hard, or when evil has touched your life, does that mean God's character has changed?
- How do we know that? Because God is good...all the time...!
- We should rejoice in the goodness of God. **Psalm 73:1a**

Truly God *is* good to Israel...

- We can say God is good to His people.
- If we were not God's people, life would be harder and more evil would be touching our lives.
- Someday, when we are in heaven we will know just how much God protected us in this life.
- Because, He is good...
- Paul is going to tell us something else about God that we don't really like to think about.
- We'll get to that later in the message.
- Chapters 9, 10, and 11 of Romans are focused on describing God's relationship to the Jews.
- Chapter 11 began with Paul dealing with objections or questions regarding God's attitude toward Israel.

- Paul had stated earlier that the Jews were blinded to the truth about God because of their rejection of their Messiah, Christ Jesus.
- They believed they were right with God based on the rituals and sacrifices laid out in the Old Testament.
- From the time Jesus died on the cross there is only one way anyone can be saved, Jew or Gentile, faith in Christ Jesus.
- This has led some to wonder if God was through with the Jews.
- As long as the sun rises and sets, the Jews will be God's Chosen People.
- And because they are God's Chosen People, God's enemies hate them.
- Tragically, two young Israeli Embassy staffers were murdered this week in Washington, DC, our nation's capital, just because they were Jews.
- Keep praying for the Jews and for Israel.
- **Romans 11:11-12**
- Paul's question here is, have the Jews fallen into sin so completely that they cannot be recovered?
- The Jews have experienced a temporary stumbling, not a permanent fall.
- It is like missing the last step when walking down the stairs.
- God will pick them and restore them.
- God is not done with the Jews; He never will be.
- Paul is a good example of God's heart to the Jews.
- Every time he went to a new city, he always went to the Jews first.
- Paul continues with what God is hoping will result from His blessing of Gentiles who come to faith in Christ.
- Through Gentiles being saved and experiencing the blessings of God, Paul was hoping the Jews would become jealous and seek the blessings themselves through faith in Christ and that they would be saved too.
- **Romans 11:13-14**
- Paul now shifts his attention to the Gentiles.
- The church in Rome was comprised of both Jews and non-Jews.

- ‘magnify my ministry’ – Paul held his calling in high esteem.
- He knew it was important, and he didn’t allow anything to diminish its importance in his mind.
- I regularly quote Ephesians 2:10 that tells us we were created by God for good works.
- The Bible teaches that God rewards His people based on their faithfulness.
- And because He is outside of time as we understand time, He has already determined what the reward is for the good works He appointed to us before the creation of the world.
- If you are 100% faithful to do the good works God appointed to you, He will reward you with 100% of the reward He determined for those good works.
- We should not compare our ministry or good works to other people or ministries.
- The good works God appointed to me are the most important things I can do with my life.
- Comparing myself to other people is a waste of time because God didn’t call me to do what they are doing.
- Paul is hoping his ministry to the Gentiles will make the Jews jealous.
- When a Gentile comes to faith in Christ, they inherit many of the blessings God promised to the Jews.
- Paul is hoping that by seeing Gentiles being blessed by God, the Jews will want to be blessed also.
- This logic also applies to us as Christ-followers and the lost people around us.
- We want them to see how God is blessing us and develop a desire for the same blessings.
- Paul goes back to the current spiritual state of the Jews.
- **Romans 11:15**
- In verse 1, Paul said, ”... I say then, has God cast away His people? Certainly not!”
- In a way, God has cast the Jews away, in that He has put a veil over their eyes when they look in the Old Testament for salvation.

- God has a plan to restore Israel to Himself and verse 26 tells us that all Israel will be saved.
- But, right now, they are on the outside looking in.
- The phrase life from the dead is pointed at the fact that most of Israel is spiritually dead because they have rejected their Messiah.
- When Jesus saves them at His Second Coming, they will be made spiritually alive.
- That is what happens to anyone, Jew or Gentile, who puts their faith in Christ. **Colossians 2:13-14**

And you, being dead in your trespasses and the uncircumcision of your flesh, He has made alive together with Him, having forgiven you all trespasses, ¹⁴ having wiped out the handwriting of requirements that was against us, which was contrary to us. And He has taken it out of the way, having nailed it to the cross.

- To be spiritually dead means that you are incapable of seeing, hearing, or responding to God.
- **Romans 11:16**
- To say something is holy means that it has been set apart from common things for a special use by God.
- The Israelites were to set apart the first part of their harvest as a holy offering to the Lord.
- By doing that they sanctified the whole harvest and received God's abundant blessing.
- Paul refers to Christ as the firstfruits of the resurrection. **1**

Corinthians 15:23

But each one in his own order: Christ the firstfruits, afterward those who are Christ's at His coming.

- The Jews have been set aside as holy to the Lord, even if they didn't act like it.
- **Romans 11:17**
- The wild olive tree would not normally produce very many olives.
- To produce more olives, the wild olive tree would be trimmed back and cultivated olive tree branches would be grafted in.
- Once grafted in, the wild olive tree produced a good harvest of fruit.
- The branches grafted in, draw from the roots and are nourished by the sap of the tree.

- This was a Jewish parable that described Gentile converts to Judaism as wild branches grafted into the nation of Israel.
- This reminds us of John 15:1-8 and Christ's parable of the vine and vinedresser.
- **Romans 11:18-21**
- Don't be haughty or arrogant about the fact that God made room for the Gentiles to be saved.
- It is not an indication of how wonderful we are.
- It is solely the grace of God.
- The rise of antisemitism in the world today is disgusting.
- What is worse is antisemitism in the church.
- If it weren't for the Jews, there wouldn't be a tree for us to be grafted into.
- If it weren't for the Jews, there would be no Bible for us to study.
- If it weren't for the Jews, there would be no Messiah, and we would all be lost, destined for hell.
- To stand against the Jews is unchristian, ungodly, unbiblical, and wicked.
- It is bad enough when it comes from unbelievers, it is an abomination in the sight of God if so-called Christians do it.
- Most Jews today are far from God, but God isn't finished with them.
- They are eternally God's Chosen People.
- We should treat them that way.
- Who knows if maybe one will meet their Messiah as they watch a Gentile Christ-follower loving their God and them.
- Paul gets to the goodness of God coupled with the characteristic that we might not like to think about.
- **Romans 11:22-24**
- One of the pieces of evidence of your faith is the perseverance of faith.
- If someone loses their faith, it is right to question whether they had true faith at all.
- Paul says, think about the goodness and severity of God.
- God's goodness is manifested in saving us through faith.

- The other side of that coin is that God is severe toward those who reject Him, and especially when they reject His Son Christ Jesus.
- It was unbelief that caused God to reject Israel temporarily.
- When they turn to Him in faith, He will restore His goodness, or kindness to them.
- As the modern church, we ought to pay close attention to God's dealings with Israel.
- We rejoice in God's goodness, but do we minimize God's severity?
- When Israel turned away from worshipping God, He warned them through the prophets for a long time.
- When His patience expired, He allowed the Assyrians to come into Israel and take the ten Northern tribes into exile.
- And then God warned the tribe of Judah by telling them to look at what happened to the Northern tribes.
- They ignored that warning for over one hundred years, and finally, God sent the Babylonians to take them into exile.
- Speaking of the wicked, King David said... **Psalm 37:1**
There is no fear of God before his eyes.
- And the writer of Hebrews wrote... **Hebrews 12:28-29**
Therefore, since we are receiving a kingdom which cannot be shaken, let us have grace, by which we may serve God acceptably with reverence and godly fear.
²⁹ For our God is a consuming fire.
- That was written to believers.
- The wicked should be terrified of God and God's people should have a profound reverence for God.
- Churches or believers who embrace the world's views, or the gender ideology nonsense, or wicked lifestyles should be terrified of God's severity.
- They probably aren't because there is no godly fear in them.
- You cannot rejoice in God's goodness if you neglect or ignore God's severity.
- I never want to be in that place spiritually, so I focus on staying where God's goodness flows.
- We all do that by walking in faith and obedience to His Word and the leading of the Holy Spirit.

- God is good...
- Let's pray and ask God to keep us right where we need to be.
- **Pray! Last Song!**