

Scriptures:

Romans 11

Notes:

Antisemitism is on the rise again. It never completely goes away. As Christ-followers, we must always remember that Christ was a Jew. He was sent from heaven to be the Messiah to the Jewish people. It was God's plan to save the Jews first, and then the Gentiles. As Christ-followers, we cannot be anti-Jew. Our Savior is a Jew, and the Jews are still God's Chosen People.

As a church, CCFV stands with Israel. That doesn't mean we agree with everything they do as a nation. For the most part, Jews are separated from God because of their rejection of the Messiah, Christ Jesus.

When we say that we stand with Israel there are four basic truths that we are standing on.

First – **Israel has a right to exist!** – God chose Abraham out from humanity to create a separated people. They are His Chosen People now and forever.

Second – **The land of Israel belongs to the people of Israel.** We refer to that land as the Promised Land. God gave it to the Jews with an everlasting covenant. The name Palestine was assigned to the land of Israel by the Romans as an insult to the Jewish people.

Third – **Israel has a God-given right to defend itself.** Anyone who attacks Israel is coming against the apple of God's eye.

Fourth – **God has a plan to save Israel.** Even though Israel is far from God and has rejected the Messiah, God has a plan to restore them back to Himself. That is the point Paul starts with in chapter eleven.

Romans 11:1-10 - The Gospel Remnant!

Scriptures:
1 Corinthians 15:9 - For I am the least of the apostles, who am not worthy to be called an apostle, because I persecuted the church of God.

¹ I say then, has God cast away His people?

G683 – push away, reject.

Notes:
[Verse 1a]
This is a logical question after describing Israel's rejection of the Messiah in chapter ten. Paul is going to respond to that question with three thoughts that make up this chapter. The first is here in our text for today, verses 1 to 10. The first thought regarding whether God has not cast away Israel is that some Jews were coming to Christ. Paul uses himself as an example of that.

Certainly not! For I also am an Israelite, of the

[verse 1b]
Paul as Jewish as one could get. For many in the early church, Paul was as unlikely of a person to be saved as there was. Paul said later about himself. **1 Corinthians 15:9**

seed of Abraham, of the tribe of Benjamin.

Even after he came to Christ many in the church did not trust that he was sincere. Finally, Barnabas brought him into the family of the church. **R. Kent Hughes**

"Paul, a hardened, religious man with blood on his hands, came to Christ, so there is hope for anyone." (Hughes, 1991) page 194

Scriptures:

² God has not cast away His people whom

Notes:
[verses 2a]
No one is beyond the grace of God. Even those who have done hideous things, there is grace enough in God to save.

He foreknew. Or do you not know what the

G4267 – "to foreknow (personally) v. — to befriend or be acquainted with someone in a familiar way ahead of time or before meeting; implying an exclusivity of choice relative to those not befriended."

'He foreknew' – God chose the Jews long before He called Abraham to leave his homeland and travel to the land God was planning to give to his descendants. God chose them and knew exactly who He was choosing.

God foreknew everyone who would come to faith. He foreknew me and knew I would walk a path that resisted the work of the Holy Spirit until I was forty.

Scripture says of Elijah, how he pleads with

G1793 – appeal, petition for.

[verses 2b-3]
If you have ever tried to share the gospel with someone and they continuously resist or reject the truth, then you have an idea about what Elijah was feeling. He was doing what he believed the Lord wanted him to be doing and people were still choosing to do the wrong things. Elijah felt like his life was a waste and he was the only one who cared about God.

God against Israel, saying,

Scriptures:

3 *"Lord, they have killed Your prophets and*

Notes:

torn down Your altars, and I alone am left,

and they seek my life"?

Scriptures:

4 But what does the divine response say to

Notes:

[verse 4]

You might feel alone and the only one who cares about God, but you are not. God sovereignly always have some who believe. In the days of Noah, it was only Noah. The Bible doesn't speak about the faith of the rest of his family before the flood, but even if they did believe that was still only six people.

him? *"I have reserved for Myself seven*

G2641 - be left,
leave to exist,
cause to remain.

We can never know who God might use to reach our lost and wayward loved ones. God has people all around us who are seeking the Lord and following the leading of the Holy Spirit that we do not know about. Trust God, He loves them more than you do.

thousand men who have not bowed the knee

Since the garden of Eden there have always been God-followers. Paul explains why in the next verses.

to Baal."

Scriptures:

John 14:6 - "I am the way, the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through Me."

1 John 5:11-12 - And this is the testimony: that God has given us eternal life, and this life is in His Son. 12 He who has the Son has life; he who does not have the Son of God does not have life.

Scriptures:

Ephesians 2:8-9 - For by grace you have been saved through faith, and that not of yourselves; it is the gift of God, 9 not of works, lest anyone should boast.

1 Thessalonians 5:16-18 - Rejoice always, 17 pray without ceasing, 18 in everything give thanks; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you.

Proverbs 15:29 -

The LORD is far from the wicked,
But He hears the prayer of the righteous.

1 Kings 9:3 - And the LORD said to him: "I have heard your prayer and your supplication that you have made before Me; I have consecrated this house which you have built to put My name there forever, and My eyes and My heart will be there perpetually."

[Ⓐ]
5 Even so then, at this present time there is

a remnant according to the election of grace.

G3005 –
"remnant n. — a
small part or
portion that
remains after the
main part no
longer exists."

G1589 – "election
n. — the act of
deliberately
selecting
someone or
something."

6 And if by grace, then *it is* no longer of works;

otherwise grace is no longer grace. But if *it is*

of works, it is no longer grace; otherwise

work is no longer work.

Notes:

[verse 5]

Between the Muslims, Jews, Catholics, and Christians, about half the world's eight billion people say they believe in God. If we only count Christ-followers, that number is much smaller. The Bible teaches that there is only one way to truly worship God. **John 14:6**

You cannot worship God without first putting your faith in Christ Jesus. **1 John 5:11-12**

There is always a remnant of true God-worshippers in the world because of election. God chooses some to be saved and through the exercise of their free will they do believe. How that transpires on a spiritual basis is a mystery.

Notes:

[verse 6]

Paul then returns to a familiar topic. Salvation is by the grace of God. That means every part of salvation, even the faith we use to believe comes from God. We bring nothing to the transaction except our sin and we do nothing to facilitate the transaction – it is all God. **Ephesians 2:8-9**

In verse 2, Elijah pleaded with God against those who were resisting God. A better response would be to plead for those you want to see God reach. Prayer is another mystery of our faith. We are commanded to pray and to do it a lot. **1 Thessalonians 5:16-18**

The Bible also teaches that God hears our prayers. **Proverbs 15:29**

God is sovereign and He does what He wants, when He wants to and how He wants to. Exactly what the role of prayer is in the way God interacts in this world is not clear, but they are important. God answered Solomon's prayer as he was dedicated the temple he built for God. **1 Kings 9:3**

Never stop praying.

Paul ends this section with the sad reality for the Jews who have rejected the Messiah promised and then sent to them.

Scriptures:

⁷ What then? ~~✱~~ Israel has not obtained what

G2013 -

it seeks; but the elect have obtained it, and

G1934 -

G2013 -

the rest were blinded.

G4456 - have
closed mind,
formally, harden,
make dull.

Notes:

[verses 7-10]

Israel had been seeking a right relationship with God through a system of religious observances and sacrifices. The problem with that is it was not how God wanted them to worship Him. Through the religious observances God wanted them to realize how holy God was and how sinful they were. It was also meant to teach them that there was nothing they do to be delivered from the sin dwells in all mankind. He wanted to desperately desire a Saviour, a Messiah, a Christ.

When Christ came, He came to the Jews. Jesus was a Jew, born to a Jewish mother who was married to a Jewish man. Both Joseph and Mary were descended from King David, which was a prerequisite for the Messiah predicted in the Jewish scriptures, what we call the Old Testament. Because they rejected the promised Messiah, God spiritually blinded them from seeing the truth. It is a judgment for their unbelief.

Scriptures:

Hebrews 3:14-16 - But their minds were blinded. For until this day the same veil remains unlifted in the reading of the Old Testament, because the veil is taken away in Christ. 15 But even to this day, when Moses is read, a veil lies on their heart. 16 Nevertheless when one turns to the Lord, the veil is taken away.

John 5:39-40 - You search the Scriptures, for in them you think you have eternal life; and these are they which testify of Me. 40 But you are not willing to come to Me that you may have life.

⁸ Just as it is written: *“God has given them a*

Notes:

This is very similar to what God did with Pharaoh in the Exodus. Because Pharaoh hardened his heart to the Word of God through Moses, God hardened his heart even more.

Does that mean God is done with the Jews? Does that mean there is no hope for the Jews? Absolutely not! God always maintains a remnant of true God-worshippers, those who come to Him through Christ. But most are blinded. The writer of Hebrews said this about that. **2 Corinthians 3:14-15**

Many of the Jews today are far from God, some are even atheists. And the ones who are seeking God are doing so in the writings of Moses and the Prophets. Jesus talked about that. **John 5:39-40**

Because of their national rejection of the Messiah, Christ Jesus, there is a veil over their eyes as they seek God in the Old Testament. Their only hope is God the Son in the New Testament. **Hebrews 3:16**

Any Jew can be saved today, if they will simply put their trust in Christ, their Messiah.

spirit of stupor, eyes that they should not see

G2659 – “stupefaction n.
— marginal
consciousness especially
characterized by an
unresponsiveness to
spiritual and moral
matters.”

and ears that they should not hear, to this

very day.”

Scriptures:

⁹ And David ^Dsays: *"Let ~~the~~ table become a*

snare and a trap, a stumbling block and

a recompense to them. ~~the~~

G468 – "recompense ⇔ wage n. — a payment for worthy acts or retribution for wrongdoing; understood as a tangible wage."

Notes:

The same truth applies to those who are not Jews. They may not be trying to be right with God through religious observances but they are imaging a way that makes them eligible to go to heaven. There is only one way, through faith in Christ Jesus. And if someone rejects the gospel of Christ Jesus, God will harden their heart and put a veil over their eyes until they humble themselves before Him and receive Christ as their Savior.

Scriptures:
Proverbs 3:5-6 - Trust in the LORD with all your heart, and lean not on your own understanding; ⁶ in all your ways acknowledge Him, and He shall direct your paths.

¹⁰ *Let ~~the~~ eyes be darkened, so that they*

G4654 – "to become inane ⇔ darken v. — to be or become unable or unwilling to perceive or understand; conceived as becoming more deficient in light or brightness."

do not ~~see~~, and bow down their back always." ~~the~~

G4781 - be overwhelmed with trouble, formally, bend the back.

Notes:

If you have loved ones who are resisting the gospel and doing things that are not right, don't lose hope. As long as there is life there is hope. God has Christ-followers you may not know about who are being prepared or at work to reach them for Christ. You keep doing your part, which is loving them, praying for them, and sharing the truth with them. You keep doing those three things until God tells you to stop, which He probably won't do. In the meantime, you keep seeking the Lord, growing your faith, and learning to love God more every day. Put your trust fully in Him. Don't trust in what your eyes can see, trust in God who sees what cannot be seen. Don't trust in what you can do, trust in the God who does the impossible. When you are tempted to lose hope, renew your trust of God. We'll close with a very familiar verse. **Proverbs 3:5-6**

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