

Romans 11:11-24 - The Gospel of Goodness and Severity!

Scriptures:

¹¹ ~~I~~ say then, have ~~they~~ stumbled that

G4417 – sin, fall. “to
sin ⇔ stumble v. — to
sin, conceived of as
missing a step and
falling or nearly
falling.”

~~they~~ should fall? Certainly not! But

G4098 – “to fall
(suffer ruin) v. —
to suffer defeat,
failure, or ruin.”

through ~~their~~ fall, to provoke ~~them~~ to jealousy,

G3900 – “transgression n. —
the action of going beyond or
overstepping some moral
boundary or limit.”

G3863 -

NASB = transgression.

salvation *has come* to the Gentiles.

Notes:

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 in Washington, DC, our nation's capital, this week just because they were Jews.

[verse 11]

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 we 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.

¹² Now if their ~~fall~~ ~~is~~ riches for the world, and

their ~~failure~~ riches for the Gentiles, how much

G2275 -

more their ~~fullness~~!

G4138 –
completeness.

Scriptures:

¹³ For I speak to you Gentiles; inasmuch as I

Notes:

Paul now shifts his attention to the Gentiles. The church in Rome was comprised of both Jews and non-Jews.

am an apostle to the Gentiles, I magnify my

G652 – “apostle n. — an envoy of Jesus Christ commissioned directly by Him or by other apostles; normally someone who has been taught directly by Jesus and who is invested with the authority to speak on His behalf.”

G1392 – glorify. “to glorify v. — to positively acknowledge, recognize, or esteem one’s character, nature, or attributes.”

ministry,

G1248 – service, role, position.

‘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 – He called them to be faithful to do it.

Scriptures:

¹⁴ if by any means I may provoke to jealousy

Notes:

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, they Jews will want to be blessed also.

those who are my flesh and save some of

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.

them.

Scriptures:

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.

¹⁵ For if ~~their~~ being cast away *is*

G580 – rejection.

the reconciling of the world, what *will*

G2643 –
“reconciliation (state)
n. — the state of
renewed friendship
after disagreement or
enmity.”

~~their~~ acceptance *be* but life from the dead?

G4356 -

Notes:

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 to the fact that most of Israel 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 who puts their faith in Christ. **Colossians 2:13-14**

To be spiritually dead means that you are incapable of seeing, hearing, or responding to God.

Scriptures:

Numbers 15:17-19 - 17 Again the LORD spoke to Moses, saying, 18 “Speak to the children of Israel, and say to them: ‘When you come into the land to which I bring you, 19 then it will be, when you eat of the bread of the land, that you shall offer up a heave offering to the LORD.

1 Corinthians 15:23 - But each one in his own order: Christ the firstfruits, afterward those who are Christ’s at His coming.

¹⁶ For if the firstfruit *is* holy, the lump *is* also

G536 – first
portion.

holy; and if the root *is* holy, so *are* the

are perfect, it means we are set apart for a holy work. Peter refers to believers as a holy priesthood.

Notes:

Paul may be referring to something God told the Israelites through Moses. **Numbers 15:17-19**

Another example is when the priests would make a sacrifice of bread or flour, they would burn up the whole thing, just a handful. If the part that was burned up was holy, then the whole thing was holy.

The root probably applies to Abraham, who was holy before the Lord, thus making all his descendants through Isaac, Jacob, and the twelve patriarchs holy. If they are holy, so are all their descendants, even though they have acted rebelliously. God will bring them back to their rightful place.

To say something is holy means that it has been set apart from the 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**

The main thought here is that Christ is the firstfruit – He is holy. If we are in Christ, attached to the root, we are holy also. That doesn’t mean we

branches.

Scriptures:

John 15:1-8 -

I am the true vine, and My Father is the vinedresser.

2 Every branch in Me that does not bear fruit He takes away; and every branch that bears fruit He prunes, that it may bear more fruit.

3 You are already clean because of the word which I have spoken to you.

4 Abide in Me, and I in you.

As the branch cannot bear fruit of itself, unless it abides in the vine, neither can you, unless you abide in Me.

5 "I am the vine, you are the branches. He who abides in Me, and I in him, bears much fruit; for without Me you can do nothing. 6 If anyone does not abide in Me, he is cast out as a branch and is withered; and they gather them and throw them into the fire, and they are burned. 7 If you abide in Me, and My words abide in you, you will ask what you desire, and it shall be done for you. 8 By this My Father is glorified, that you bear much fruit; so you will be My disciples.

17 And if some of the branches were broken

off, and you, being a wild olive tree,

were grafted in among them, and with them

G1461 – "to be
engrafted (state) v. —
to be or become
attached to another
plant so as to grow
together with it."

became a partaker of the root and fatness of

G4096 – rich sap,
nourishing sap.

the olive tree,

Notes:

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 is 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.

Scriptures:

¹⁸ do not boast against the branches. But if

G2620 -

Notes:

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.

you do boast, *remember that* you do not

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 thing. It is bad enough when it comes from unbelievers, it is an abomination in the sight of God if so-called Christians do it.

support the root, but the root *supports* you.

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 God and them.

Scriptures:

¹⁹ You will say then, "Branches were broken

Notes:

off that I might be grafted in."

Scriptures:

20 Well *said*. Because of unbelief they were

G570 – refusing
to trust.

Notes:

broken off, and you stand by faith.

G2476 – “to
persist ⇔ stand v.
— to persist,
conceived of as a
building that is
still standing
intact.”

Do not be haughty, but fear.

G5309 – be
arrogant,
excessively
proud.

G5399 –
reverential awe,
worship.

Scriptures:

21 For if God did not spare the natural

G5339 – refrain
from harming.

Notes:

branches, He may not spare you either.

Scriptures:

²² Therefore consider the goodness and

G5544 –
benevolence,
kindness.

Notes:

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 whose 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.

severity of God: on those who fell, severity;

G663 –
harshness.

G4096 –

but toward you, goodness, if you continue in

G1961 –
persevere.

~~His~~ goodness. Otherwise you also will be cut

off.

Scriptures:

23 And they also, if they do not continue in
G1961 – remain.

Notes:

unbelief, will be grafted in, for God is able to
G570 – refusing to trust. G1415 - δυνατός (dynatos) – capable.

graft them in again.

24 For if you were cut out of the olive tree

which is wild by nature, and were grafted

contrary to nature into a cultivated olive tree,

how much more will these, who ~~are~~ *are* natural

branches, be grafted into their own olive tree?

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