

ROMANS: TRANSFORMED BY GRACE

(Romans 11:32-36)

What is our Takeaway from Romans 9-11

READ Romans 11:30-36

³⁰ For just as you once were disobedient to God, but now have been shown mercy because of their disobedience [Jews], ³¹ so these also now have been disobedient, that because of the mercy shown to you they also may now be shown mercy. ³² For God has shut up all in disobedience, so that He may show mercy to all. ³³ Oh, the depth of the riches, both of the wisdom and knowledge of God! How unsearchable are His judgments and unfathomable His ways! ³⁴ For who has known the mind of the Lord, or who became His counselor? ³⁵ Or who has first given to Him, that it would be paid back to him? ³⁶ For from Him, and through Him, and to Him are all things. To Him *be* the glory forever. Amen.

-An understanding of God brings Paul to the place of worship. How about you? Confusion or excitement? Or are you just glad to be finished with Romans 11?

Paul gives a majestic doxology or benediction as he concludes this argument on Israel, Gentiles, the Church & Jesus as the only hope of the world. Paul is brought to a place of awe & wonderment as he considers the plans and purposes of God for this world, for his own life, & U!

-In Chs 9-11, Paul related to us many wonderful things about God & His divine & salvific program for the world: He challenged what we knew about God's nature & dealing with the world. Paul challenged our theology & what we are required to do with this knowledge.

-**If we do not understand the reasons behind God's dealings with Israel, Gentiles & ourselves, it is not because there is not good & sufficient biblical reason. The difficulty is with our inability to comprehend the wisdom and ways of God: *We must pursue Him; pray; study; Spirit-led &...*

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-Is. 55:8-9 "For my thoughts are not your thoughts, neither are your ways my ways, says the Lord. For as the heavens are higher than the earth, so are my ways higher than your ways, and my thoughts than your thoughts" -Dt. 29:29 "The secret things belong to the Lord our God, but that which He has revealed belong to us and our sons forever."

We are accountable and responsible to God for what He reveals to you. *What have you learned about His nature these last weeks at the WELL studying Romans? Glass bottom boat/speedboat*

7 Clear takeaways from Romans 9-11

1. God is sovereign. God's absolute sovereignty means God is ruler, King of the universe, Lord & supreme over everything and all time. He's in charge. Of creation. Of blessing. Of Judgment. Of Heaven and HELL. And who will spend their eternities there.

³⁶ For from Him, and through Him, and to Him are all things. -Col. 1:13-20 "For He rescued us from the ¹³domain of darkness, and transferred us to the kingdom of ¹⁴His beloved Son, ¹⁴ in whom we have redemption, the forgiveness of sins. He is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn of all creation: ¹⁶ for by Him all things were created, *both* in the heavens and on

earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones, or dominions, or rulers, or authorities—all things have been created through Him and for Him. ¹⁷ He is before all things, and in Him all things hold together. ¹⁸ He is also the head of the body, the church; and He is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead, so that He Himself will come to have first place in everything. ¹⁹ For it was the *Father's* good pleasure for all the fullness to dwell in Him, ²⁰ and through Him to reconcile all things to Himself, whether things on earth or things in ^[ad]heaven, having made peace through the blood of His cross.

[Application: We must make our peace with this biblical reality: God is in charge of everything, & He alone is trustworthy to oversee & superintend our world, your world, & your future. We exist at His pleasure & we live for His glory alone. What will you do with this knowledge? Worship or shrink back & run from God & truth? God's sovereignty for His faithful let us sleep at night in peace. God has this! God has your life. God has your suffering. And our loss, pain, brokenness, & suffering only have value in God's gracious sovereignty]

- 2. Mankind is not sovereign.** Only God is truly autonomous; only He has full free-will, & is not dependent on anything or anyone. **This is NOT true of us.** We are God's *creation*. He made us. *He didn't have to* =contingent creatures. ³⁰ For just as you once were disobedient to God, but now have been shown mercy because of their disobedience [Jews], ³¹ so these also now have been disobedient, that because of the mercy shown to you they also may now be shown mercy. We live to serve the Creator & to make His Name great among all the nations. We are alive to worship God & live for His pleasure. **That means you are not even the second most important person in your life. You get third. God first; family second; You are third.** **[Application:** You are a needy, dependent, wholly helpless creation: You need to remind your heart that apart from Jesus you have nothing & are nothing; everything you have is because of God's grace. =God calls us to be thankful, to worship, to surrender our life in all ways to Him, to live for His glory & His purposes -forever!]
- 3. It was God who chose Israel from nowhere;** it was not Israel who chose God. God's sovereign & elective purposes are true. God chooses those He desires to save/rescue/from their own sinful and depraved God-rebellious hearts. It brings God great glory to demonstrate His saving grace upon those whom He saves. Israel was/is a powerful example of God's gracious choice in election for those who did not/could not earn it -who had not intrinsic value to deserve salvation or justice. **BUT GOD...**
³¹ so these also now have been disobedient, that because of the mercy shown to you they also may now be shown mercy. *They were shown mercy once, & will be shown mercy again.* **[Application:** Israel exists as God's jewel of salvation. They still exist (in some form) in this world & epitomize an example of God's lavish grace, severe mercy & His severe justice. Israel still has a purpose to serve on this earth within God's salvific global program. Israel's continued existence displays God's covenant promises to Himself & to His eternal purposes which will be revealed in the end times.]
- 4. It was God who chose to punish Israel** (His own elect Nation/His own covenant people) in their constant rebellion. God gave them a purpose to give the good news to the gentiles of the One True Covenant God (Is. 42:6). Yet, they rebelled & rejected their God-given purpose & blessings. God punishes those whom He loves because God is perfectly righteous & just. So, God removed His favor on Israel for a season, until the end of this age (times of the Gentiles fulfilled). ³¹ so these also now have been disobedient [Jews], that because of the mercy shown to you - they also may now be shown mercy.

God gave the Gentiles His favor to receive the gospel & now to give the good news to all the nations, including Israel. In punishment to Israel, God partially blinded & hardened the Jews' hearts -so that in their willful rebellion they won't believe & He wouldn't rescue them in their sin/death. BUT...that's not the end of the story. **God still has a purpose for His covenant people b/c God is a faithful covenant keeping God.** God has a plan and future for Israel. What we are seeing today is a fleshy or carnal return to the land by Israel; it is not what was predicted in the Old Testament. However, the existence of Israel as a thriving nation shows that God could start his program with them at any time. But before he begins his program for Israel, there must be the coming in of the fulness of the Gentiles.

[Application: As God created, loved, chose, & brought Israel to Himself for salvation – those who rebelled, He punished. In our spiritual life, there are real consequences for our sin. Death & destruction are real. But Jesus paid the ultimate price for our sin & our acceptance is now found in Christ; our security is found in what Christ has done for us & what He says about us; our identity & worth are found in Jesus alone. Jesus' righteousness has now become our righteousness; **AND If** we are IN Christ, we have everything. If we reject Christ, we have nothing. So, what will you do with Christ?]

5. **Man has absolute responsibility to believe on Christ for salvation** & is accountable to God for rejecting truth & rebelling against a holy God in all ways. The Book of Romans lays out the paradox of both God's sovereignty in salvation AND man's responsibility / accountability for his rebellion & depravity. ³⁵ **Or who has first given to Him, that it would be paid back to him?** Man stands in desperate need for Christ's rescue of his heart; man has nothing to offer God. Man cannot save himself, cannot work his way to heaven. **Need GRACE** **[Application:** *from our human perspective:* No one who ever wanted to be saved by Christ is turned away by Christ; Those who never wanted Christ are not forced by God to be saved. They get what they want: an eternity without God. God is absolutely just in that those who rebel against God & hate Him get hell. AND God is absolutely merciful & loving in that those who have no hope of being saved are offered salvation through Jesus -saving faith relationship with Him. Do you feel the Lord drawing your heart to His ? Hear His voice ?]
6. **Because none of us within the Church can see into peoples' hearts, we are to give the gospel away to every soul on this earth.** ³² **For God has shut up all in disobedience, so that He may show mercy to all.** We cannot & should not get hung up on the reality of election, predestination, foreknowledge, & foreordination. These are biblical realities that describe God's ineffable nature & how the Trinity was at work in eternity past to bring about salvation for His elect (God's merciful choice to elect & predestine those whom He wanted to rescue for His pleasure, through His Kindness, for His utter glory alone; the Son's willing heart to become a man, live a sinless life, die a sacrificial death on a criminal's cross -taking our very sin on His life; and being raised from death victorious over all sin & death for all time. The Spirit's gracious provision to apply Jesus' righteousness to regenerate hearts to salvation in time/space -bringing our dead, depraved hearts to life. **[Application:** Who are you actively sharing your faith with? Who are praying for the opportunity to give the gospel away? Who are you discipling to make disciples of all nations? This is your purpose on this earth -to Worship & work for His glory]
7. The purpose of the Bible; of the Book of Romans; of our time together in God's Word is to know God to glorify God with all we are: V.36:**To Him be the glory forever. Amen.** What will you do with God's glory? Rob it? Ignore it? Misplace it? Or run to it? Bask in it. Magnify it?