

March 24, 2019 19022-A #33

Romans 11:25-36

God Can Be Trusted

I. John 1:11-13. The fact that Jesus' own people, the Jews, did not receive him is one of the main mysteries and questions in the context of the gospel. Romans 9-11 addresses Israel's unbelief and God's faithfulness.

A. Had Israel's rejection of Christ destroyed God's promise to them? Had Israel been rejected, stumbled permanently? Had they been replaced by the Gentiles now?

B. Paul's answer: No! 11:1-24.

1. God has not rejected all Israel and Israel has not fallen permanently. 1-10
2. Israel's rejection of Christ has led to the salvation of the universe. 11-12
3. You Gentiles are grafted into Abraham's stock. Not vice versa. 13-24.

II. Paul exhorts his Gentile converts. Romans 11:25-36

A. Your view is conceited and mistaken. 25a

1. *Look at something you don't understand, so that you don't become "wise in your own conceits"*
2. Musterion = something God was doing that he wasn't previously telling us about. Something revealed now that has been hidden before.

a) *Life is full of these*

3. Wise in your own estimation (NIV conceited). How so?

a) *By thinking you know all about God's work and that it's all about you.*

b) *Conceited gentiles thinking God had tossed Israel away.*

B. Israel's Unbelief is Partial and Temporary. 25b

1. Partial hardening = not all Israel and not for all time.
 - a) Partial means that it's not complete or permanent.
 - b) Hardening = like a callous, a growth which reduced sensitivity or flexibility.
2. Until the fullness of the gentiles has come in. **Jn 10:16**

a) A specific number of gentiles called by God.

C. God's Promise will certainly be fulfilled. 26-27

1. It will be fulfilled in this way.
 - a) This is the (surprising) way God will save all Israel.
2. All Israel = entire nation at a given point in future.
3. The OT indicates Israel will become a truly godly nation in Christ someday.

a) Isa 59:20; 27:9

D. Because His Choices are Eternally Irrevocable. 28-29

1. Irrevocable = without regret. God doesn't change his mind on gifts and calling. Hence "Irrevocable"
2. Israel's position depends on your point of view ...
3. *Could a partial hardening happen to a person called to Christ today, and God still be faithful to discipline and return that one? Yes.*

E. Based on His Sovereign Grace. 30-32

1. By closing the door on legalism (sealing gentiles and Jews in disobedience), He forces everybody into the blessing of free Grace and Security. **3:9,19**
2. *Confidence in my obedience is an obstacle to Grace!*

F. Wow! Is He amazing or what? This is a crescendo, a doxology 33-36

1. Look at the wealth of God's wisdom and knowledge!
2. Unsearchable judgments. Isa. 40:13 ff. (Eph.3:8; Deut. 29:29)
 - a) We are not capable of understanding his decisions.
3. Inscrutable ways. (Isa 55:8-9)
 - a) We are not capable of understanding the way he does things.
4. He does not need our advice. Who has been his counselor or created in Him a sense of debt? (Isa.50:12)
 - a) Isa 40:13 ff; Job 35:7, 41:11
5. *It's all about Him! He receives all the glory for our salvation.*

III. The question of Israel's faithlessness helps us see the nature of true faith:

- A. It's not about figuring God out, but trusting Him.
 - 1. Many people think that they cannot trust what they cannot understand. But this actually a form of unbelief when it comes to God.
 - 2. Trusting His Grace in Christ.
- B. It is not about what we see, but what God is doing behind it. 2 Cor 4:16-18
 - 1. God is always doing something behind the scenes, in mystery, always pressing forward his plan, *especially when despite our best efforts, things don't go the way we thought.*
 - 2. God is always promising something in the future that gives perspective to the present.
Rom.8:18-30
- C. It is not just in God theoretically, but in His word and Son literally. 10:9-19
 - 1. Paul's explanation of unbelief is not about unbelief in God (Nobody held a higher view of God than the Jews).
 - 2. *It is unbelief in Jesus Christ, God's son, the Risen Lord.*
 - 3. *Hell is full of people who know (or suspect) God is there, but don't trust Him.*
- D. Why? Because in Christ God has already made the supreme sacrifice to rescue his sheep and if you are one, you will be rescued. Rom.8:31-34