

**I. Jesus always insisted that people trust him personally and implicitly.**

A. But Israel didn't trust Him as a group. Jn.10:22-33.

**II. It is this violent, national rejection of Jesus as Messiah that prompts Paul's Romans 9-11**

A. Why was Israel not believing in Messiah? Rom.9:6

**III. Romans 9-11 analyzes Israel's *unbelief*.**

A. It is providential. Rom.9 (Israel's national hardness has not derailed God)

1. God has arranged for it. Rom.9; God uses it. Rom.11

B. It is volitional. Rom. 10

1. People refuse to believe. It's not that they can't, but that they won't.

2. They choose not to believe.

C. It is culpable. Rom. 10 (1:18-32)

1. Culpable ignorance is ignorance that people choose to have, based on other priorities.

D. It is irrational. Rom. 10

1. There is no rational reason to avoid asking God to forgive you of your sins and draw you into Christ. If there is even a chance that the gospel is true, it is worth pursuing.

E. It is religious. Rom.9:30-10:4

1. Unbelief can look very zealous and religious. In fact, it often did.

**IV. So, has he thrown them out of his plan? Absolutely NOT!!**

A. Rom 10: 21 would lead us to believe that God might totally let Israel go, repudiate them completely for their obstinate refusal to trust Him. *Amazingly this is not the case!*

B. Because they are *foreknown*, he will not reject them. 11:29

**V. What is God doing...? Romans 11:1-10.**

A. He has not rejected his people. 1-2

1. By implication, anyone he has foreknown. 8:29

2. Foreknew = means that God initiated a personal relationship, a synonym for predestined (1 Pet 1:20, Amos 3:2)

B. He is working with a remnant. 2-6

1. Like He did in Elijah's day (mid-9<sup>th</sup> cent BC). 2-4 (1 K 19:18)

a) Remnant. Rom. 9:6, 27-29

2. He has graciously selected some to work with. 5

C. Because his work must be by grace rather than human merit. 6

1. Grace that is earned (by works) is not grace.

a) Salvation is a gift, not a wage. Rom.6:23.

2. He does not base his decision to save on anything the human does or is!

a) *Trying hard, working hard, obeying laws, is not the way to eternal life and righteousness!! 9:30.*

b) *Can hard-working Christians fall into this?*

3. He does not base his continued covenant love on anything the believer does.

D. He is giving those who insist on self-salvation what they want—their wages. 7-10. (Rom.6:23)

1. They were seeking the Law instead of the Lord's Grace. 9:30-32

a) How does God harden a hard heart?

b) By giving it what it wants, endorsing its autonomy. Rom.1:18

c) Note: *God never hardens a soft heart (Jn. 6:37).* But he does:

2. This is not out of character for the Lord. 8-10

a) **Deut 29:4.** In Moses' time (mid 2<sup>nd</sup> millennium BC) the people refused to believe even in the face of God's direct intervention.

b) **Isa. 29:10.** In Isaiah's time (mid-8<sup>th</sup> century BC) the people had prophetic messages over and over, but refused to listen.

c) **Psalms 69:22-23.** Messianic psalm of David bringing judgment on the idolatrous enemies of God.

## **VI. The Lord is more trustworthy than people think.**

### **A. You can trust Him with your destiny. Rom.8:31-32**

1. Because he will not throw you away.
2. Because Jesus Christ has lived the life you should have lived and died the death you should have died.

### **B. You can trust Him with others' destinies.**

1. Because he will do what is right with all human souls.
2. He will not throw your loved one away if they have truly come to Christ, no matter what they may look like right now.

### **C. You can trust Him in the dark.**

1. When it looks like he's not doing anything and the enemy is winning. Like Elijah in 1 K.19.
2. No matter how it looks, God is not passive and He is not finished.
3. The Lord is always doing more than we can possibly know.

### **D. He can trust Him when you are tested. Luke 22:31-34**

1. He specifically arranges life to test these areas of trust.
2. Times of severe temptation and self-doubt.
  - a) Feeling weak and "on the run" from the enemy (Elijah)
3. Times of profound grief and almost despair. Elijah, Kill me. 1 K.19:4.
  - a) Concern for others' salvation and life.
4. Times of confusion and disorientation.
  - a) Has God's Word failed? Is it all wrong?

## **VII. Because Jesus Christ has done it all for us, so that we can do all in Him. Phil.2:12-13; 4:13**