



New Covenant

Presbyterian Church

Romans 11:7-36 Small Group Questions and Answers

1. How does Romans 11:7-36 relate to 9:6 and 11:5?

We have to always keep in mind that whatever Paul writes it must be consistent with the fact that he said that there was a true Israel (elect) within Israel (ethnic, theocratic, Old Covenant church) and that he was a part of the remnant according to the election of grace. Whatever else he might say has to be consistent with this principles. We must read 11:26 in light of this.

2. What is Paul setting out in Romans 11:7-36?

God's mysterious process of saving elect Jews and Gentiles.

3. What are the stages in the process of God working out His strategy in the plan of the salvation of elect Jews and Gentiles?

Jews hardened
Gentiles grafted in
Jews provoked to jealousy
Some Jews grafted back in
Fullness of Jew and Gentile Converts
The whole church, the new Israel, brought to glory.

4. What is important about Paul suggesting that Gentiles were grafted into the root in order to provoke unbelieving Jews to jealousy so that some might believe? When others look at your life, is there anything about it that would make the jealous over what you have spiritually in Christ?

There was a danger that Gentiles think that God had replaced the Jews with them. This is erroneous as Paul tells believing Gentiles that they were grafted in to the root (i.e. the promises made to Abraham and fulfilled in Christ).

5. What does Paul warn the Gentile believers about? Why is this warning necessary.

In Romans 11, the apostle is not saying "keep an eye on Israel" so much as, "keep an eye on God's strategy of salvation" and "keep an eye on yourself" (vv. 17-24).

6. What does Paul charge the Gentile believers to remain in? What, or who, is the "kindness" of God? Why is this important for us to get?

Jesus is the kindness of God.

"The kindness of God doesn't lead us to arrogance and self-sufficiency and the demeaning of others; but, the kindness of God leads us to repentance (Rom. 2:4)--to say, 'Lord, I've sinned so grievously; Have mercy upon me; and the hope of Your grace enables me to come to you and say to you, 'Lord, I will humble myself and I will live for Your glory,' and so, Paul says in Romans 11:20, 'If because of unbelief they were broken off, and you stand by faith. Do not be haughty, but fear. For if God did not spare the natural branches, He may not spare you either.' Ah you say, 'But I made a decision. I have the card in my wallet. I can tell you the date. Once saved always saved.' Yes, my dear friend, if you were saved. But the evidence that you were saved is not that the card is in the wallet; but the evidence that you were saved is that you keep on responding to the kindness of God and have a humble spirit to those who are, as yet, unbelievers--otherwise, you too will be cut off. My dear friends, Judas Iscariot had a card in his hip pocket--and his card said, "Apostolic Treasurer;" but he didn't continue in the kindness because he had never trusted in the kindness. And he too, as Paul says here, was cut off." – Sinclair Ferguson on Romans 11:20-21



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7. What should be the end result of us seeing and being a part of God's strategy of gathering His elect Jews and Gentiles to Himself?

Praise to Him for His unsearchable wisdom. Worship.

8. What are the options about the meaning of "all Israel shall be saved" in Romans 11:26? What position did your pastor take?

The first group takes "all Israel" to be a reference to a mass conversion of ethnic Jews at the end. The second believe it to be all the elect Jews or elect Jews and Gentiles who make up spiritual Israel. I, With Calvin and O. Palmer Robertson, take it to be all elect Jews and Gentiles who are the true Israel saved through the process outlined in ch. 11.