

TRUTH UNASHAMED

A JOURNEY THROUGH THE BOOK OF ROMANS

Part 4: The Sovereign Lord

Week 6

This weeks focus scripture: Romans 11:1-15

This weeks extra reading:

- Take some time and re-read all of Romans chapters 9 and 10. These are essential to Paul's case as we move into chapter 11.
- *Colossians 1:25-27, Ephesians 2:4-9*

This weeks memory challenge: *Romans 11:5-6*

Study and Reflection

Day 1: Read the above passages from Colossians and Ephesians. In your own words, describe the *mystery of God's Grace*. What specific truths about God's Grace do you see in these two passages?

Do you see any ways in cultural christianity that we misunderstand (or 'under understand') the meaning, purpose, and work of God's Grace in our lives?

Day 2: In Romans 11:1-3, Paul emphatically declares that God had not rejected Israel. He cites the story of the prophet Elijah, who at a point in his ministry felt like God might have abandoned him, as everyone around him was against him. Have you ever had an experience where you felt like God had abandoned you?

Looking back on this experience, how did you come to see God's love and presence in your life? Are there any scriptures God used to assure you that He had not forsaken or abandoned you? How did God sustain you through this experience?

Day 3: In Romans 10:4-6, we see God's answer to Elijah, and to us. Consider the following questions:

- What are the implications that God has always held- by His initiative and Grace- a remnant of faithful believers?
- How do we balance the truth that believers are 'chosen by Grace', with chapter 10's focus on our need to hear and choose to respond to the Gospel? (if you missed last week, you may want to listen to that message).
- What is the 'great assurance' that our salvation is wholly a work of God's Grace, and not of our works? What are ways we try to make our salvation- and our relationship with God- about our works rather than His grace?

Day 4: Romans 11:7-15 is a very difficult passage of scripture to grasp, but the 'big picture' is of God's continued (and future) work through, and for, Israel.

- How did Israel's initial rejection of Jesus as the messiah become part of God's bigger picture for all the world?
- What is the promise- and result of the promise- that God has made regarding Israel now and in the future?

† So, in a nutshell...

In Romans 9:1-9:29, we saw the great Truth that God is SOVEREIGN.

Emphasis is on GOD'S CHOICE of how, when, and through whom He work, always according to His MERCY.

In Romans 9:30 through chapter 10, Paul's emphasis moves to OUR CHOICE of how we respond to God's mercy.

We are called to respond in FAITH, and faith comes from HEARING

Romans 10:17 Consequently, faith comes from hearing the message, and the message is heard through the word about Christ.

† As we move into chapter 11, Paul turns to the great mystery of God's GRACE.

Colossians 1:25-27

Ephesians 2:4-9

† Did God reject Israel?

Romans 11:1-2

† Elijah's cry, our cry

Romans 11:3

† The great answer of God's Grace

Romans 11:4-6

† Why didn't Israel *see*? Why don't people see now?

Romans 11:7-10

† The big picture of God's Grace

Romans 11:11-15