

Parson to Person

ROMANS 11 PART 12

“And they [Israel] also, if they do not continue in unbelief, will be grafted in, for God is able to graft them in again. For if you were cut out of the olive tree which is wild by nature, and were grafted contrary to nature into a cultivated olive tree, how much more will these, who are natural branches, be grafted into their own olive tree?”

For I do not desire, brethren, that you should be ignorant of this mystery, lest you should be wise in your own opinion, that blindness in part has happened to Israel until the fullness of the Gentiles has come in. And so all Israel will be saved, as it is written: ‘The Deliverer will come out of Zion, and He will turn away ungodliness from Jacob; for this is My covenant with them, when I take away their sins.’ Concerning the gospel they are enemies for your sake, but concerning the election they are beloved for the sake of the fathers. For the gifts and the calling of God are irrevocable. For as you were once disobedient to God, yet have now obtained mercy through their disobedience, even so these also have now been disobedient, that through the mercy shown you they also may obtain mercy. For God has committed them all to disobedience, that He might have mercy on all.

Oh, the depth of the riches both of the wisdom and knowledge of God! How unsearchable are His judgments and His ways past finding out! ‘For who has known the mind of the LORD? Or who has become His counselor?’ ‘Or who has first given to Him and it shall be repaid to him?’ For of Him and through Him and to Him are all things, to whom be glory forever. Amen” (Romans 11:23–36 NKJV).

Someone once asked, “Can God build a rock so big that he cannot move it?” The question is posed in order to corner and embarrass believers. However, there is an answer and believers should know it.

God cannot make a rock so big that He cannot move it! There are reasons we would answer this way—and we should know why! Moreover, those who answer “questions from absurdity” should answer definitively and unashamedly. This will silence those who are antagonistic and/or enemies of the cross.

1) There are many things God cannot do. For example, God cannot cease to exist; He cannot die; He cannot change; He cannot lie; He cannot fail. God cannot act in unrighteousness or injustice and therefore cannot pardon the unbelieving, forgive the rebellious, save the Devil, etc. God cannot deny Himself, cannot be improved upon, cannot be diminished, cannot be surprised, cannot learn, cannot be fooled or deceived, and cannot change His mind! Yes, there are many things God cannot do—and I am sure that were I to take a few more minutes on this I could think of a few more things!

2) A thing formed cannot supersede the one who formed it. All things created (or made) have a creator—and the creator is always greater than that which is created or made. Therefore, we know that God cannot make something that is greater than Himself. He cannot make another eternal or greater God. He cannot make time that supersedes eternity. All that God makes is lesser than Himself, and therefore He cannot make a rock so big that He cannot move it. Fools in their attempt to deny God are those who think that they can corner God or provide an attack against Him that will cause believers to deny His existence! Remember, it is the fool who says in his heart that there is no God.

According to the proven, reliable, and inspired Scriptures, all things were created and made by God and there is nothing that did not originate in and/or by Him. *“All things were made through Him, and without Him nothing was made that was made” (John 1:3 NKJV).* Moreover, Paul wrote of Jesus saying, *“He is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn over all creation. For by Him all things were created that are in heaven and that are on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or principalities or powers. All things were created through Him and for Him” (Colossians 1:15–16 NKJV).* Furthermore, Paul told the Romans, *“of Him and through Him and to Him are all things, to whom be glory forever. Amen” (Romans 11:36 NKJV).*

One might ask why I would bring this up. Answer: Because God has been accused of the powerlessness to save—or keep those He has promised salvation from demise. He has been accused of failing to cause His creation to comply with His divine plans—and by His failure suffered man’s rebellion, sin, death, etc. However, nothing could be further from the truth. God has allowed man to sin and thus allowed man to experience His grace and forgiveness. He has and will also allow man to suffer judgment and/or divine wrath when unrepentant and/or unbelieving! Indeed, God is in control but allows man the freedom to believe or rebel. God is in control but does not control all the actions of those He has complete power to enable or restrain.

Inasmuch as man will attempt to deny God, control God, fully understand Him, or explain all His ways, we must finally conclude that God alone is God alone! This truth led Paul to conclude, *"Oh, the depth of the riches both of the wisdom and knowledge of God! How unsearchable are His judgments and His ways past finding out!"* (Romans 11:33 NKJV).

Love you all,
Pastor Paul