

## Parson to Person

### ROMANS 11 PART 13

*“Concerning the gospel they [the Jesus-rejecting, unbelieving Jews] 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 11:28–36 NKJV).*

The Jews who have rejected Jesus make up a part of the “branches” that were broken off the olive tree mentioned here in Romans 11. They have, as the result of their own rebellion, been given up to their hardened hearts and given a spirit of slumber—from the Lord. They, as spiritually “deaf and blind,” are enemies of the cross. Often this adversarial position manifests as aggression toward believers.

Let us remember that Saul/Paul prior to his conversion was a persecutor of the Church. He aggressively pursued, imprisoned, and consented to the death of those who had trusted Jesus and moved forward in the Jewish faith as God had intended. As spiritually blind he was doing what he thought best—but was wrong. When God revealed the truth to Paul, he became the quintessential ambassador of the Gospel of Grace and authoritatively spoke and wrote about Jesus and all God was doing in the Church Age. For this reason, the trilogy of Romans 9-11 is the high water mark of explanations of the truth regarding God’s dealings with the Jews—and His bold and gracious invitation to the Gentiles. As an early enemy of the cross, Paul, once converted, became one of the greatest advocates for Jesus and the Gospel.

This fact should caution Gentiles who are quick to persecute or reject the Jews today. Paul emphasized this when he wrote, *“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.”* Paul was showing that God’s call and gifting of Israel was irrevocable and that He was not done with them. Moreover, he explained that God’s righteous discipline of Israel (temporary blindness) was used in order to introduce His Gospel invitation to Gentiles—welcoming them into the family of God. The Jews did not suffer rejection as they remain the “elect” for “the sake of the fathers.” This is Paul’s way of saying that God has a covenant with Israel as explained to Abraham, Isaac, Jacob, et al. However, their temporary (and individualized) discipline allowed for a recognition of their own sinfulness—a sinfulness earlier (and appropriately) attributed by Jews against Gentiles (see Galatians 2:15).

By manifest methodology God allowed all men to see their sinfulness *“that He might have mercy on all.”*

Earlier in the same epistle Paul wrote, *“all have sinned”* (Romans 3:23), *“all are sinners”* (see Romans 3:9–20), and all may be justified by grace alone, through faith alone, in Christ alone (see Romans 3:21–26), *“apart from the deeds of the Law”* (see Romans 3:20, 27–30), even as the continuing and everlasting covenant He has with Israel continues. (See Romans 11:25–27) (See also Genesis 15; 17:1–22; 28:10–17; Ezekiel 37, etc.)

*“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!”*

- 1) The spiritual blindness suffered by Jews during the Church Age has led to their disdain and persecution of Christians.
- 2) The historical, present, and future persecution against Israel (although useful) is displeasing to the Lord.
- 3) God made promises to Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob—and He intends to keep them.
- 4) All have sinned and are in need of the Savior. God in His great mercy has offered salvation to all. By grace alone—through faith alone—in Christ alone—as explained in the Scriptures alone—for the glory of God alone!

Love you all,

Pastor Paul