**Romans Series July 30, 2023**

**God’s Gracious Choice of the Gentiles– Romans 11:11-24**

1. Unbelief of Jews Results in **Salvation for Gentiles** Romans 11:11-14

* Transgression (trespass)
  + An offense against God or mankind
  + It carries the idea of a false step resulting in loss of footing causing a person to stumble
  + Israel stumbled over Christ, the Chief cornerstone
  + Synonym of sin
* Salvation
  + To be eternally saved from condemnation of eternal punishment
  + It begins at the moment of regeneration and continues forever
* Purpose of Israel’s stumbling in transgression:

1) To bring salvation to the Gentiles

2) To make unbelieving Israelites envious of the Gentiles to draw them back to God through Jesus Christ

2. Gentiles Must **Maintain Humility** Romans 11:15-21

* The failure of the Jews to believe enables many Gentiles to come into right relationship with the Lord
  + Reconciliation: the reestablishment of a broken relationship
* Those Jews who rejected Christ, were “broken off” (17a) and many Gentiles were “grafted in” (17b), making them future heirs along with the believing Jews
  + This continues Paul’s argument originally established in Romans 1:16-17 that salvation was for both Jews & Gentiles alike
* All Christians set aside any pride (“conceit” – 20b) and maintain a holy reverence (“fear” 20b) before the Lord about our common salvation

3. God is Both **Kind and Severe** Romans 11:22-24

* God’s nature and attributes are “kind” and merciful toward people
  + Romans 2:4   
    Do you think lightly of the riches of His kindness and tolerance and patience, not knowing that the kindness of God leads you to repentance?
* God is also ‘severe’ in His punishment for those who ultimately reject Him
  + The Lake of Fire (Revelation 20:11-15) awaits those who deny Christ and reject Him
  + See also Mark 9:42-48, Luke 16:19-31

**What does this mean for me?**

* God has created all of us, Jews and Gentiles alike, with the opportunity to receive eternal life
  + Give Him much praise and thanksgiving for grafting us in as Gentiles along with our Jewish brothers
* Ask God for forgiveness for any arrogance or pride in your life in any area
  + God’s gracious act for us results in true humility before Him and our brothers and sisters
* Reject any and all anti-Semitic rhetoric
  + There is no place in the life of a Christian to persecute anyone

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