

Romans 9... 10... 11

The vast majority of Jews are enemies of the Gospel. Nevertheless God loves them and continues to deal with them as a nation. You should not fall into the error of thinking that God has cast them away. *You* are not Israel.

Romans 11:30 For as you were once disobedient to God, yet have now obtained mercy through their disobedience,

We are Gentiles who once were required to convert to Judaism in order to approach God. On account of Israel's disobedience, God has extended us mercy. We are saved with no relation to the rules, rites, and rituals of the Jews.

Romans 11:31 even so these also have now been disobedient, that through the mercy shown you they also may obtain mercy.

Now the Lord can use His mercy extended to us to reach-out to His disobedient chosen people.

Romans 11:32 For God has committed them all to disobedience, that He might have mercy on all.

The idea is that God has committed both Jew and Gentile into custody as lawbreakers. God offers mercy to these prisoners based on the person and work of Jesus.

Paul closes Chapter Eleven with a doxology of praise.

Romans 11:33 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!

Paul has three subjects of praise. Our translation, by the word "both" introduced here, confines it to two. The apostle wishes to express his admiration of the riches and the wisdom and the knowledge of God.

1. "Riches" relates the spiritual treasure of our salvation. We are saved; we are being sanctified; we will certainly be glorified.

2. "Wisdom" relates to the plan by which God has bestowed upon all mankind the riches of His salvation. It is all by grace and not at all by works. It involved giving man a free choice to love Him but accounting for man's failure and fall. It involved God coming in human flesh, dying, then rising again. It is a universal plan, effective at all times and in all places, for the universal problem of sin. It is an altogether heavenly wisdom that no man could have contemplated.
3. "Knowledge" encompasses the working out of that plan in history via providence by which God causes all things to work together for the good for them that love Him.

Though God has revealed all this to us, His "judgments" remain "unsearchable." There is a sense in which we cannot account for all the possible factors. We think in terms of cause and effect. For instance, when I am in a trial I think that if I learn the spiritual lesson the trial will end. But some 'trials' are not that way. They are things God has judged to be good for me and, so, they remain in effect.

"His ways [are] past finding out." We're generally to know God's "ways." They are the ways of grace, mercy, forgiveness, love, acceptance, and the like. But how He moves the entire universe in order to accomplish His purposes for your life are most definitely "past" our "finding out."

Romans 11:34 "For who has known the mind of the LORD? Or who has become His counselor?"

The Lord has revealed "His mind" to us to the extent He is able and we have need.

Obviously no one would presume to counsel the Lord. This tells us that His plan, as revealed to us, is to be discovered by revelation in His Word. We accept what we find there - no matter how difficult it might be for us to reconcile.

Things like the trinity and the seeming discrepancy between free will and sovereignty are to be received. We are not to counsel God by inventing theologies that explain God by explaining away things too difficult to comprehend.

Romans 11:35 "Or who has first given to Him And it shall be repaid to him?"

Contrary to the prevailing doctrine of the Jews, Paul shows that no one could plead his own merits, or advance with a claim on God. All the favors of salvation must be bestowed by mercy or grace. God owned them all; and he had a right to bestow them when and where he pleased.

Romans 11:36 For of Him and through Him and to Him are all things, to whom be glory forever. Amen.

David Guzik writes:

It is all of Him. This plan came from God. It wasn't man's idea. We didn't say, "I've offended God and have to find a way back to Him. Let's work on a plan to come back to God." In our spiritual indifference and death we didn't care about a plan, and even if we did care we aren't smart enough or wise enough to make one. It is all of Him.

It is all through Him: Even if we had the plan, we couldn't make it happen. We couldn't free ourselves from this prison of sin and self. It could only happen through Him, and the great work of Jesus on our behalf is the through Him that brings salvation.

It is all to Him: It's not for me, it's not for you, it's all to Him. It is to the praise of the glory of His grace (Ephesians 1:6). It's for His pleasure that we are created, and we find our fulfillment in bringing Him glory and honor.

Here is something interesting. The fact we cannot fully fathom God, or completely figure Him out, makes us worship Him all the more!

Jon Courson:

And so we close this section, knowing that God has proven Himself to the Jews. He chose them sovereignly, deals with them equitably, and promises He will not give up on them eternally. Generations before ours studied this section of Romans and thought, We hear what you say, Paul - but where is Israel today?

We're so blessed because we don't have to say, "Someday, Israel is going to come together." No, we can say, "We've already seen it happen, Lord. Therefore, we know that things are going to come together for us as well. You've promised they would, and we trust in You."