**Round Top Church Christian Fellowship**

Sermon

*Romans Series - Chapter 11:11-36*

 ***Repentant Remnant***

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October 27th In the Year of Our Lord 2019

(Unless otherwise noted, NAS text is quoted)

We will set the stage to Romans 11 with a letter Paul wrote to the church in Ephesus. Followed by Jeremiah 11:11-23 concerning Judah’s sin and the reference to an “olive tree.”

**Ephesians 2:11-22**

11 Therefore remember that formerly you, the Gentiles in the flesh, who are called "Uncircumcision " by the so-called "Circumcision," *which is* performed in the flesh by human hands--

 12 *remember* that you were at that time separate from Christ, excluded from the commonwealth of Israel, and strangers to the covenants of promise, having no hope and without God in the world.

 13 But now in Christ Jesus you who formerly were far off have been brought near by the blood of Christ.

 14 For He Himself is our peace, who made both *groups into* one and broke down the barrier of the dividing wall,

 15 by abolishing in His flesh the enmity, *which is* the Law of commandments *contained* in ordinances, so that in Himself He might make the two into one new man, *thus* establishing peace,

 16 and might reconcile them both in one body to God through the cross, by it having put to death the enmity.

 17 AND HE CAME AND PREACHED PEACE TO YOU WHO WERE FAR AWAY, AND PEACE TO THOSE WHO WERE NEAR;

 18 for through Him we both have our access in one Spirit to the Father.

 19 So then you are no longer strangers and aliens, but you are fellow citizens with the saints, and are of God's household,

 20 having been built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Christ Jesus Himself being the corner *stone*,

 21 in whom the whole building, being fitted together, is growing into a holy temple in the Lord,

 22 in whom you also are being built together into a dwelling of God in the Spirit.

**Let us also review the words of God’s prophet, Jeremiah. This passage details why the Jews are described as ungodly and having hard hearts, and why God hardened his heart towards them. The passage also points to Israel (Hebrew People) being referred to as an olive tree.**

**Jeremiah 11:11-23**

11 Therefore thus says the LORD,

"Behold I am bringing disaster on them which they will not be able to escape; though they will cry to Me, yet I will not listen to them.

 12 "Then the cities of Judah and the inhabitants of Jerusalem will go and cry to the gods to whom they burn incense, but they surely will not save them in the time of their disaster.

 13 "For your gods are as many as your cities, O Judah; and as many as the streets of Jerusalem are the altars you have set up to the shameful thing, altars to burn incense to Baal.

 14 "Therefore do not pray for this people, nor lift up a cry or prayer for them; for I will not listen when they call to Me because of their disaster.

 15 "What right has My beloved in My house When she has done many vile deeds? Can the sacrificial flesh take away from you your disaster, So *that* you can rejoice?"

 16 The LORD called your name, "A green olive tree, beautiful in fruit and form"; With the noise of a great tumult He has kindled fire on it, And its branches are worthless.

 17 The LORD of hosts, who planted you, has pronounced evil against you because of the evil of the house of Israel and of the house of Judah, which they have done to provoke Me by offering up sacrifices to Baal.

 18 Moreover, the LORD made it known to me and I knew it; Then You showed me their deeds.

 19 But I [Jeremiah] was like a gentle lamb led to the slaughter; And I did not know that they had devised plots against me, *saying*, "Let us destroy the tree with its fruit, And let us cut him off from the land of the living, That his name be remembered no more."

 20 But, O LORD of hosts, who judges righteously, Who tries the feelings and the heart, Let me see Your vengeance on them, For to You have I committed my cause.

 21 Therefore thus says the LORD concerning the men of Anathoth, who seek your life, saying,

"Do not prophesy in the name of the LORD, so that you will not die at our hand";

 22 therefore, thus says the LORD of hosts,

"Behold, I am about to punish them! The young men will die by the sword, their sons and daughters will die by famine;

 23 and a remnant will not be left to them, for I will bring disaster on the men of Anathoth-- the year of their punishment."

**Romans 11:11** and following can be challenging to understand in that Paul is talking about whom? Jews, Gentiles, Remnant, Olive Trees, Wild Olive, Roots, Branches, holy dough, lump of dough, and Redeemer. These nouns are interlaced through the text.

 There are also other words on which to focus in gathering the meaning of God’s Word. Israel, Deliverer, Zion, and Covenant all need to be understood.

 **Israel:** Paul uses the title exclusively to refer to the people of the covenant started with Abraham. **This is the covenant of faith**. If you are an Israeli under this definition then you are justified and made righteous to God by faith, like Abraham. We never forget that the covenant with Abraham is to **all the nations** (Gentiles) in Genesis 12:3. So, they too, by faith, can be descendants of Abraham according to **Romans 9:6-8.**

 6 But *it is* not as though the word of God has failed.

 For they are not all Israel who are *descended* from Israel;

 Meaning some Jews who are biological descendants are not descendants of the “promise.” This is due to the fact that they did not have the “faith” of Abraham (Genesis 15:6, Romans 4:9).

 7 nor are they all children because they are Abraham's descendants, but: "THROUGH ISAAC YOUR DESCENDANTS WILL BE NAMED."

 8 That is, it is not the children of the flesh who are children of God, **but the children of the promise are regarded as descendants**.

 The account in Genesis then chronicles God’s interaction in changing what would seem to be the biological heir (oldest son) of the promise, being Esau to Jacob. Hence, God intervenes in the affairs of men to accomplish His will. Heirs of the “promise” are not biological; they are spiritual, by faith.

**Deliverer**: Jesus

 **Zion**: The hill where Jerusalem is built. Specifically Mount Moriah, the Temple Mount.

**Covenant**: This is by faith. God’s covenant with Abram in Genesis 12:3 is the beginning point for the Hebrews as a distinct people group under God. Hebrews 11:1ff obviously proves that righteousness to God is exhibited in the life of Abel, the son of Adam. This is important for the Gentiles to see that “faith” as Abel demonstrated was functioning before Abraham. Faith is the mechanism that justifies people to God, not the law. Faith produces works under the Law (James 2).

 I have color-coded and placed in brackets words added for clarity so the Jews and the Gentiles can be easily identified. This also applies to the words: remnant, branches, Deliverer.

 Upon careful examination, the branches are the remnant from the root of the Olive Tree.

**The text of** **Romans 11:11-36**

 11 I say then, they [Jews] did not stumble so as to fall, did they?

May it never be!

But by their [Jews] transgression salvation has come to the Gentiles,

to make them [Jews] jealous.

 12 Now if their [Jews] transgression is riches for the world

and their [Jews] failure is riches for the Gentiles,

how much more will their [Jews] fulfillment be!

 13 But I am speaking to you who are Gentiles.

Inasmuch then as I am an apostle of Gentiles,

I magnify my ministry,

 14 if somehow,

I might move to jealousy my fellow countrymen [Jews]

and save some of them.

 15 For if their [Jews] rejection is the reconciliation of the world,

what will their [Jews] acceptance be but life from the dead?

 16 If the first-fruit [Jews] is holy, the lump [Gentiles] is also;

and if the root is holy, the branches (Jesse - Isaiah 11:1) are too.

 17 But if some of the branches were broken off, [unrepentant Jews]

and you, being a wild olive [Gentiles],

were grafted in among them [Jewish Remnant]

and became partaker with them of the rich root of the olive tree,

[Israel is the olive tree starting with Abraham and continuing through the Patriarch Isaac, Jacob, Joseph, Moses.]

 18 do not be arrogant toward the branches; [Jews]

but if you [Gentiles] are arrogant,

remember that it is not you [Gentiles] who supports the root,

but the root supports you [Gentiles].

 19 You [Gentiles] will say then,

"Branches [Jews] were broken off so that I might be grafted in."

 20 Quite right, they [Jews] were broken off for their unbelief,

but you [Gentiles] stand by your faith.

Do not be conceited, but fear;

 21 for if God did not spare the natural branches [Jews].

He will not spare you [Gentiles], either.

 22 Behold then the kindness and severity of God;

to those who fell [Jews], severity,

but to you [Gentiles], God's kindness,

if you [Gentiles]continue in His kindness;

otherwise you [Gentiles] also will be cut off.

 23 And they [Jews] also, if they do not continue in their unbelief,

will be grafted in, for God is able to graft them [Jews] in again.

 24 For if you [Gentiles] were cut off from what is by nature a wild olive tree, and were grafted contrary to nature into a cultivated olive tree, how much more will these who are the natural branches [Jews] be grafted into their own olive tree?

 25 For I do not want you [Gentiles], brethren, to be uninformed of this **mystery**-- so that you will not be wise in your own estimation—

that a partial hardening has happened to Israel

until the fullness of the Gentiles has come in;

 What is this time? When is this accomplished?

 **26 and so all Israel will be saved**; just as it is written,

 So, who is “all Israel?” These are the people of the faith-covenant, those that are justified to God by faith. This means Jews and Gentiles. “All Israel” incorporates the faith-remnant and the Gentiles who were justified by faith. (Romans 4:11-18). It is the remnant that will be saved (Romans 9:27, Isaiah 10:22).

Some scholars see this passage as pointing to a time in the end days when the “fullness of the Gentiles has come in.” True, when this age ends, the fullness of the Gentiles will have come, and, at the same time, the fullness of the Jews. Since the covenant of “faith” is the same for both Jews and Gentiles, their time to accept/surrender to God runs parallel. The Hebrew light shines to the Gentiles calling them to God all through history. Both Jews and Gentiles are “all Israel.” Remember, God makes no distinction, as Paul declares in Romans 3:21-24.

21 But now apart from the Law *the* righteousness of God has been manifested, being witnessed by the Law and the Prophets,

22 even *the* righteousness of God through faith in Jesus Christ for all those who believe; for there is no distinction;

 23 for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God,

 24 being justified as a gift by His grace through the redemption which is in Christ Jesus;

12 For there is no distinction between Jew and Greek; for the same *Lord* is Lord of all, abounding in riches for all who call on Him;

 13 for "WHOEVER WILL CALL ON THE NAME OF THE LORD WILL BE SAVED." Romans 10:12-13

Up to writing Romans 11:26 concerning “all Israel,” Paul goes to great lengths in shinning the brightest light on the fact that Jews and Gentiles are justified to God the same way. Paul points to God’s faith-covenant with Abraham as the starting point for the Jews and Gentiles. Thus, “true Israel, or “all Israel” consist of people who are justified to God, or made righteous to God in the same way, by faith.

Continuing in**Romans 11:26**

"THE DELIVERER WILL COME FROM ZION,

HE WILL REMOVE UNGODLINESS FROM JACOB."

 27 "THIS IS MY COVENANT WITH THEM,

WHEN I TAKE AWAY THEIR SINS."

(Isaiah 1:27, 59:20; Psalm 14:7; Ezekiel)

 Paul quotes Isaiah and the Psalms to verify the Messiah was prophesied in the Old Testament. In addition, the Deliverer/Messiah would come from Zion which is the hill where Jerusalem is built. Specifically, the Temple containing the Holy of Holies where the Ark of the Covenant was housed. This is the place where the sins of Israel were taken away on the Day of Atonement. God replaced this setting with the Incarnation, Cross, Resurrection and Ascension. Through these, God took their ungodly sins away if they would surrender to Him. The remnant Jews did. God as Jesus Christ supplanted the Temple on Mount Zion. Jesus takes the place of the Jewish High Priest (Hebrews 9:11). Jesus is the perfect sacrifice for all people’s sins (Hebrews 9:14, and chapter 10).

Isaiah 59:20 "A Redeemer will come to Zion,

And to those who turn from transgression in Jacob,"

declares the LORD.

Psalm 14:7 Oh, that the salvation of Israel would come out of Zion!

When the LORD restores His captive people,

Jacob will rejoice, Israel will be glad.

 **Individual responsibility.** God does not save someone simply because they are a member of a group. Thus, for some to interpret the reference to “all Israel” meaning that God will save the Jews simply because they are Jews by blood from Abraham is not true. This would go contrary to the Scripture of God written through the prophets and the apostles.

Ezekiel 18:30 "Therefore I will judge you, O house of Israel,

each according to his conduct," declares the Lord GOD.

"Repent and turn away from all your transgressions,

so that iniquity may not become a stumbling block to you.

Isaiah 1:27 Zion will be redeemed with justice

And her repentant ones with righteousness.

**Romans 11** continued

 28 From the standpoint of the gospel

they are enemies for your sake,

but from the standpoint of God's choice

they are beloved for the sake of the fathers;

 29 for the gifts and the calling of God are irrevocable.

 30 For just as you once were disobedient to God,

but now have been shown mercy because of their disobedience,

 31 so these also now have been disobedient,

that because of the mercy shown to you

they also may now be shown mercy.

 32 For God has shut up **all** in disobedience

so that He may show mercy to **all.**

 33 Oh, the depth of the riches both of the wisdom and knowledge of God! How unsearchable are His judgments and unfathomable His ways!

 34 For WHO HAS KNOWN THE MIND OF THE LORD,

OR WHO BECAME HIS COUNSELOR?

 (Isaiah 40:13,14; Job 11:17, 15:8;)

 35 Or WHO HAS FIRST GIVEN TO HIM

THAT IT MIGHT BE PAID BACK TO HIM AGAIN?

 (Job 41:11, 35:7)

36 For from Him and through Him and to Him are all things.

To Him be the glory forever. Amen.

In Romans 11:11-36, Paul goes to great lengths to explain the relationship with the Jews and the Gentiles. The bottom line is God’s covenant, as given to Abraham, is applicable for all the nations (Genesis 12:3). Obviously, this includes the Gentiles, who are all the nations. Through Paul, it is apparent that God is frustrated with the Jews who lack faith. We know that God directs His covenant to also include the Gentiles by faith. This was a historical reality as noted with Abraham. This means you and I are included, if we, too, surrender to God and accept His faith to work in us.

We Gentiles must remember that God chose the Hebrews through whom to witness Himself to us. As Paul explains, we Gentiles have been ‘grafted in’. The Jews may be jealous, but God’s grace is applied to who He wills (regarding the availability of salvation to all people). Through the Jewish victories with God and through their failures, we receive the “Truth” in how to have a relationship with God. As Paul so colorfully writes, we Gentiles are a wild olive, but none-the-less, qualify to be ‘grafted in’ by faith to the root (Olive Tree), be it a remnant root, **a branch of Jesse.**

**Isaiah 11:1** Then a shoot will spring from the stem of Jesse, And a branch from his roots will bear fruit.

2 The Spirit of the LORD will rest on Him, The spirit of wisdom and understanding, The spirit of counsel and strength, The spirit of knowledge and the fear of the LORD.

**AMEN**

**References below:**

**Romans 4:11-18 all Israel**

11 and he received the sign of circumcision, a seal of the righteousness of the faith which he had while uncircumcised**, so that he might be the father of all who believe without being circumcised,** that righteousness might be credited to them,

 12 and the father of circumcision to those who not only are of the circumcision**, but who also follow in the steps of the faith of our father Abraham which he had while uncircumcised.**

 13 For the promise to Abraham or to his descendants that he would be heir of the world was not through the Law, **but through the righteousness of faith.**

 14 For if those who are of the Law are heirs, faith is made void and the promise is nullified;

 15 for the Law brings about wrath, but where there is no law, there also is no violation.

 **16 For this reason *it is* by faith, in order that *it may be* in accordance with grace, so that the promise will be guaranteed to all the descendants, not only to those who are of the Law, but also to those who are of the faith of Abraham, who is the father of us all,**

 17 (as it is written, "A FATHER OF MANY NATIONS HAVE I MADE YOU") in the presence of Him whom he believed, *even* God, who gives life to the dead and calls into being that which does not exist.

 18 In hope against hope he believed, so that he might become a father of many nations according to that which had been spoken, "SO SHALL YOUR DESCENDANTS BE."

**Romans 9:25-33**

 25 As He says also in Hosea, "I WILL CALL THOSE WHO WERE NOT MY PEOPLE, 'MY PEOPLE,' AND HER WHO WAS NOT BELOVED, 'BELOVED.'"

 26 "AND IT SHALL BE THAT IN THE PLACE WHERE IT WAS SAID TO THEM, 'YOU ARE NOT MY PEOPLE,' THERE THEY SHALL BE CALLED SONS OF THE LIVING GOD."

 27 Isaiah cries out concerning Israel, "THOUGH THE NUMBER OF THE SONS OF ISRAEL BE LIKE THE SAND OF THE SEA, IT IS THE REMNANT THAT WILL BE SAVED;

 28 FOR THE LORD WILL EXECUTE HIS WORD ON THE EARTH, THOROUGHLY AND QUICKLY."

 29 And just as Isaiah foretold, "UNLESS THE LORD OF SABAOTH HAD LEFT TO US A POSTERITY, WE WOULD HAVE BECOME LIKE SODOM, AND WOULD HAVE RESEMBLED GOMORRAH."

 30 What shall we say then? That Gentiles, who did not pursue righteousness, attained righteousness, even the righteousness which is by faith;

 31 but Israel, pursuing a law of righteousness, did not arrive at *that* law.

 32 Why? Because *they did* not *pursue it* by faith, but as though *it were* by works. They stumbled over the stumbling stone,

 33 just as it is written, "BEHOLD, I LAY IN ZION A STONE OF STUMBLING AND A ROCK OF OFFENSE, AND HE WHO BELIEVES IN HIM WILL NOT BE DISAPPOINTED."