

God's Saving Purpose

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Scripture Basic: Romans 10:14-11:36

Focal: Romans 10:14-16, 21, 11:1, 25-26a, 30-36

Outline:

II. What God Has Done for Man: Justification by Faith (1:18-11:36)

A. What It Is (1:18-5:21)

B. How It Affects Conduct (6:1-8:39)

C. Why Most of Israel Has Rejected It (9:1-11:36)

1. Introduction (9:1-5)

2. Israel's situation viewed in the light of the attributes of God (9:6-29)

3. Israel's situation viewed in the light of human responsibility (9:30-10:21)

a. Israel itself to blame for its rejection by God (9:30-10:13)

b. Israel's unbelief not excused by lack of opportunity (10:14-21)

(1) The necessity for the proclamation of the gospel in order for belief to result (10:14-15)

(2) The Jews, however, have largely rejected the proclaimed gospel (10:16-17)

(3) Did they, then, not hear or understand the gospel? (No!) (10:18-21)

4. Israel's situation viewed in the light of God's overall plan for Jew and Gentile (11:1-32)

a. Israel's rejection by God is not complete (11:1-10)

(1) Question and answer (11:1a)

(2) Proof that God has not cast away Israel as a whole

(11:1b-10)

b. Israel's rejection by God is not final (11:11-24)

(1) Israel's unbelief has produced certain beneficial results

in the divine working (11:11-15)

(2) The glories of the patriarchs are an earnest of Israel's

future (11:16)

(3) Warnings to Gentile converts re their attitudes toward

Israel (11:17-24)

c. Israel faces a bright future (11:25-32)

5. Concluding doxology: The magnitude of God's mercy and wisdom

(11:33-36)

Applications:

1. Faith comes by hearing the Word of God (10:17). No one is ever saved apart from the Word of God. Christians who want to grow in faith (and shouldn't we all?) must saturate themselves with the Word of God. Maturity comes in no other way.

2. Gentile believers have been grafted into the Olive Tree of Israel, and thus we share in all of the attendant blessings (cf. Ephesians 2:11-22, Galatians 3:16-29).

3. Romans 11 seems to teach a large-scale conversion of Jewish people at the end of this age, stemming, in part, from Gentile evangelism. We should not neglect this aspect of evangelism today.

4. God's infinite wisdom and power can turn even unbelief into ultimate good for many - something well beyond our capacity to understand.