

## **Pt 39 Romans 11:11-24, Gentiles Grafted In**

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### **Romans 11:11-24**

11 I say then, Have they stumbled that they should fall? God forbid: but *rather* through their fall salvation *is come* unto the Gentiles, for to provoke them to jealousy.

12 Now if the fall of them *be* the riches of the world, and the diminishing of them the riches of the Gentiles; how much more their fulness?

13 For I speak to you Gentiles, inasmuch as I am the apostle of the Gentiles, I magnify mine office:

14 If by any means I may provoke to emulation *them which are* my flesh, and might save some of them.

15 For if the casting away of them *be* the reconciling of the world, what *shall* the receiving of *them be*, but life from the dead?

16 For if the firstfruit *be* holy, the lump *is* also *holy*: and if the root *be* holy, so *are* the branches.

17 And if some of the branches be broken off, and thou, being a wild olive tree, wert grafted in among them, and with them partakest of the root and fatness of the olive tree;

18 Boast not against the branches. But if thou boast, thou bearest not the root, but the root thee.

19 Thou wilt say then, The branches were broken off, that I might be grafted in.

20 Well; because of unbelief they were broken off, and thou standest by faith. Be not highminded, but fear:

21 For if God spared not the natural branches, *take heed* lest he also spare not thee.

22 Behold therefore the goodness and severity of God: on them which fell, severity; but toward thee, goodness, if thou continue in *his* goodness: otherwise thou also shalt be cut off.

23 And they also, if they abide not still in unbelief, shall be grafted in: for God is able to graff them in again.

24 For if thou wert cut out of the olive tree which is wild by nature, and wert grafted contrary to nature into a good olive tree: how much more shall these, which be the natural *branches*, be grafted into their own olive tree?

We pick up where we left off last Sunday by looking at verses 11-24 of Romans chapter 11. Paul is speaking to his fellow Israelites concerning God's plan for them and whether they have been given up on and replaced by the Gentiles.

11 I say then, Have they stumbled that they should fall? God forbid: but *rather* through their fall salvation *is come* unto the Gentiles, for to provoke them to jealousy.

Again, Paul uses his tried-and-true method of question and answer to explain things. He says, "Have they stumbled that they should fall?" By "fall" he means to be cut off by God or permanently rejected as God's people.

His answer is the same as before "God forbid." May it never be. Don't even think such a thing. God will never give up on his people.

...but *rather* through their fall salvation *is come* unto the Gentiles, for to provoke them to jealousy.

Paul explains that God purposely blinded the Jews and offered salvation to the Gentiles and will use this to provoke them to jealousy. That means to turn them back to Himself. This is a quote from **Deuteronomy 32:21** *They have moved me to jealousy with that which is not God; they have provoked me to anger with their vanities: and I will move them to jealousy with those which are not a people; I will provoke them to anger with a foolish nation.*

Does this mean God only offered salvation to the Gentiles to bring the Israelites back to him? No, it was not the sole purpose. His plan to include the Gentiles was there all along and foretold by the Prophets. Let me read you a few passages of Scripture which tells us of Salvation to the Gentiles:

**Isaiah 11:10** And in that day there shall be a root of Jesse, which shall stand for an ensign of the people; to it **shall the Gentiles seek**: and his rest shall be glorious.

**Isaiah 42:6** I the LORD have called thee in righteousness, and will hold thine hand, and will keep thee, and give thee for a covenant of the people, for **a light of the Gentiles**;

**Isaiah 49:6** And he said, It is a light thing that thou shouldest be my servant to raise up the tribes of Jacob, and to restore the preserved of Israel: I will also give thee for **a light to the Gentiles**, that thou mayest be my salvation unto the end of the earth.

**Isaiah 60:1-3** Arise, shine; for thy light is come, and the glory of the LORD is risen upon thee. 2 For, behold, the darkness shall cover the earth, and gross darkness the people: but the LORD shall arise upon thee, and his glory shall be seen upon thee. 3 **And the Gentiles shall come to thy light**, and kings to the brightness of thy rising.

So, God wasn't only offering salvation to the Gentiles to make the Israelites jealous, but he is using it to do so.

Of course, we aren't going around bragging and trying to flaunt it in the faces of Jews, but when they see us receiving salvation it stirs them to long for their Messiah.

12 Now if the fall of them *be* the riches of the world, and the diminishing of them the riches of the Gentiles; how much more their fulness?

Don't let this verse confuse you. You could read it like this: "**Now if the fall of the Israelites bring the riches of salvation to the world and if the diminishing of the Israelites brings the riches of salvation to the Gentiles, just think of how much more the fulness of Israel's future glory when their eyes are opened, and they receive salvation.**"

Israel at this time is being chastened by God. They are stumbling but they will not completely fall. There will be a time in the future when God will once again bless them, and their eyes will be opened. What a glorious and wonderful time that is going to be!

Not only is salvation brought to the Gentiles but in the end, the Jews will bring joy to the world. You can read in Revelation chapter 7 when God separates 144,000 from the Tribes of Israel which will go about preaching the Gospel during the Tribulation period. This is a blessing to the whole world because it leads to the Millennial Kingdom.

Then Paul turns his attention to the Gentiles: **13 For I speak to you Gentiles, inasmuch as I am the apostle of the Gentiles, I magnify mine office: 14 If by any means I may provoke to emulation them which are my flesh, and might save some of them.**

Paul wants the Gentiles to know that he is truly a called Apostle unto them, and he is thankful for it and magnifies his office as an Apostle. He is even excited that through his work with the Gentiles, the unbelieving Jews will be stirred and cause them to take interest in the Gospel and be saved.

We know, despite Paul being an Apostle to the Gentiles, that every time he went to a new city the first place he went was the Jewish synagogue to preach the gospel. He so desired for the Jews to receive Christ that he did everything in his power to reach them first, then when they would reject him, he went to the Gentiles. But not all the Jews rejected Paul's gospel message, there were many who believed and received salvation.

15 For if the casting away of them *be* the reconciling of the world, what *shall* the receiving of *them be*, but life from the dead?

16 For if the firstfruit *be* holy, the lump *is* also *holy*: and if the root *be* holy, so *are* the branches.

17 And if some of the branches *be* broken off, and thou, being a wild olive tree, wert grafted in among them, and with them partakest of the root and fatness of the olive tree;

Now Paul moves to the analogy of the Olive Tree. As we mentioned last time, the Olive Tree is a symbol of Israel. He says some of the **natural branches** (meaning Israel) were broken off and the branches from a "**wild Olive tree**" (meaning Gentiles) were grafted onto the tree in their place. He shows that both the natural branches and the grafted branches are "**partakers of the root and fatness of the tree.**"

18 Boast not against the branches. But if thou boast, thou bearest not the root, but the root thee.

19 Thou wilt say then, The branches were broken off, that I might be grafted in.

20 Well; because of unbelief they were broken off, and thou standest by faith. Be not highminded, but fear:

21 For if God spared not the natural branches, *take heed* lest he also spare not thee.

22 Behold therefore the goodness and severity of God: on them which fell, severity; but toward thee, goodness, if thou continue in *his* goodness: otherwise thou also shalt be cut off.

Here Paul cautions the Gentiles not to be prideful about what they have and look down upon the Jews which seem to be fallen. It may be that some would think they were special, and that God broke off the branches so that they could be exalted. But he tells them right quick, the branches weren't broken off for them, the Jews were broken off because of their unbelief. Paul warns the Gentiles to not be high-minded. If God would break off the natural branches, he would have no problem breaking off the ones that have been grafted on.

We too must be careful to allow ourselves to build up Spiritual pride. If we aren't careful, we will start thinking that we are the only ones that are right and what we believe and do is the only right way and we look down upon everyone else.

I love being an Independent Baptist, but our so-called "movement" is one of the worst to exhibit pride. Many times, our preferences became a source of pride.

Checking hemlines and hairlines on people on their way through the door.

Looking down on anyone who doesn't wear a suit and tie.

If you don't do it our way, then hit the highway.

**Proverbs 21:4** An high look, and a proud heart, *and* the plowing of the wicked, *is* sin.

**Proverbs 16:18-19** Pride *goeth* before destruction, and an haughty spirit before a fall. 19 Better *it is to be* of an humble spirit with the lowly, than to divide the spoil with the proud.

There is absolutely no place in the Church for pride. God hates it and says so in His Word:

**Proverbs 6:16-19** These six *things* doth the LORD hate: yea, seven *are* an abomination unto him: 17 A proud look, a lying tongue, and hands that shed innocent blood, 18 An heart that deviseth wicked imaginations, feet that be swift in running to mischief, 19 A false witness *that* speaketh lies, and he that soweth discord among brethren.

23 And they also, if they abide not still in unbelief, shall be grafted in: for God is able to graff them in again.

24 For if thou wert cut out of the olive tree which is wild by nature, and wert grafted contrary to nature into a good olive tree: how much more shall these, which be the natural *branches*, be grafted into their own olive tree?

Not only did God graft in the Gentiles but he is also willing and able to graft back in the natural branches if they become believers.

Not that anything is hard for God, but it's a lot easier to graft a limb onto a tree that is naturally part of the tree. It is much more difficult to graft on a limb from a totally different tree altogether. You can go online and watch YouTube videos of how to graft limbs onto trees. My dad used to do that with some fruit trees he was growing at the house.