

Evening Worship / April 2, 2023
"The Remnant and the Rest!" Romans 11:1-12

Paul has been answering the question, why are not all the Jewish people saved?

1. Not all chosen!
2. Not all believed!
3. Not all listened to and obeyed God's Word!

But here he tells us, some were chosen, some did believe and some did obey!

I. There was and is a remnant among the Jewish people that are chosen, believe and are saved –

1. *God did not cast away His people, Paul, is himself, evidence of God's grace toward Israel*
11 I say then, has God cast away His people? Certainly not! For I also am an Israelite, of the seed of Abraham, of the tribe of Benjamin. Romans 11:1 (NKJV)

A. Paul was truly saved despite himself; he was a persecutor of Christ's church –

9 Then Saul, still breathing threats and murder against the disciples of the Lord, went to the high priest ² and asked letters from him to the synagogues of Damascus, so that if he found any who were of the Way, whether men or women, he might bring them bound to Jerusalem.

³ As he journeyed he came near Damascus, and suddenly a light shone around him from heaven.

⁴ Then he fell to the ground, and heard a voice saying to him, "Saul, Saul, why are you persecuting Me?" Acts 9:1–4 (NKJV)

B. He had been the chief of sinners -

¹⁵ This is a faithful saying and worthy of all acceptance, that Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners, of whom I am chief. 1 Timothy 1:15 (NKJV)

C. It was as chief of sinners that he was the model or pattern for the rest of us who were SAVED, not because of our own righteousness, but because of Christ's –

¹⁶ However, for this reason I obtained mercy, that in me first Jesus Christ might show all longsuffering, as a pattern to those who are going to believe on Him for everlasting life.

1 Timothy 1:16 (NKJV)

2. He talks of those God foreknew, His people -

² God has not cast away His people whom He foreknew. Romans 11:2 A (NKJV)

A. He speaks of a previous dark day for Israel, under Ahab and Jezebel, even Elijah was discouraged, because the mob majority under a wicked king and queen had killed most of the true prophets, yet God still had HIS true people -

Or do you not know what the Scripture says of Elijah, how he pleads with God against Israel, saying, ³ "LORD, they have killed Your prophets and torn down Your altars, and I alone am left, and they seek my life"? ⁴ But what does the divine response say to him? "I have reserved for Myself seven thousand men who have not bowed the knee to Baal." Romans 11:2 B –:4 (NKJV)

B. *He is saying, similar to that time, now in his Paul's day, within thirty year's of the crucifixion of Jesus Christ, there was still an elect group of believing Jewish people -*

⁵ **Even so then, at this present time there is a remnant according to the election of grace. Romans 11:5 (NKJV)**

3. *This was an election, even of the Jews, just like the Gentiles, of GRACE –*

⁶ **And if by grace, then it is no longer of works; otherwise grace is no longer grace. But if it is of works, it is no longer grace; otherwise work is no longer work. Romans 11:6 (NKJV)**

G. R. A. C. E. – God's riches at Christ's expense!

“Amazing grace, how sweet the sound
That saved a wretch like me
I once was lost, but now I am found
Was blind but now I see!”
John Newton

“Two things must characterize any Christian. One is a profound sense of personal sin and unworthiness. The other is an overwhelming awareness of the grace of God. The two go together, of course, for without a proper sense of sin, we will never appreciate grace.”

James Boice

The fact of a remnant, according to the election of GRACE – Romans 11:5 can only be because of GRACE, Romans 11:6! Paul, once Saul, was just as much a sinner and persecutor as those who persecuted him, and he knew it, and proclaims it!

If we are saved it is due to God's grace, if we are lost it is our own fault and sin!

II. *The horror of God's judicial hardening -*

⁷ What then? Israel has not obtained what it seeks; but the elect have obtained it, and the rest were blinded. ⁸ Just as it is written: “*God has given them a spirit of stupor, Eyes that they should not see And ears that they should not hear, To this very day.*” Romans 11:7–8 (NKJV)

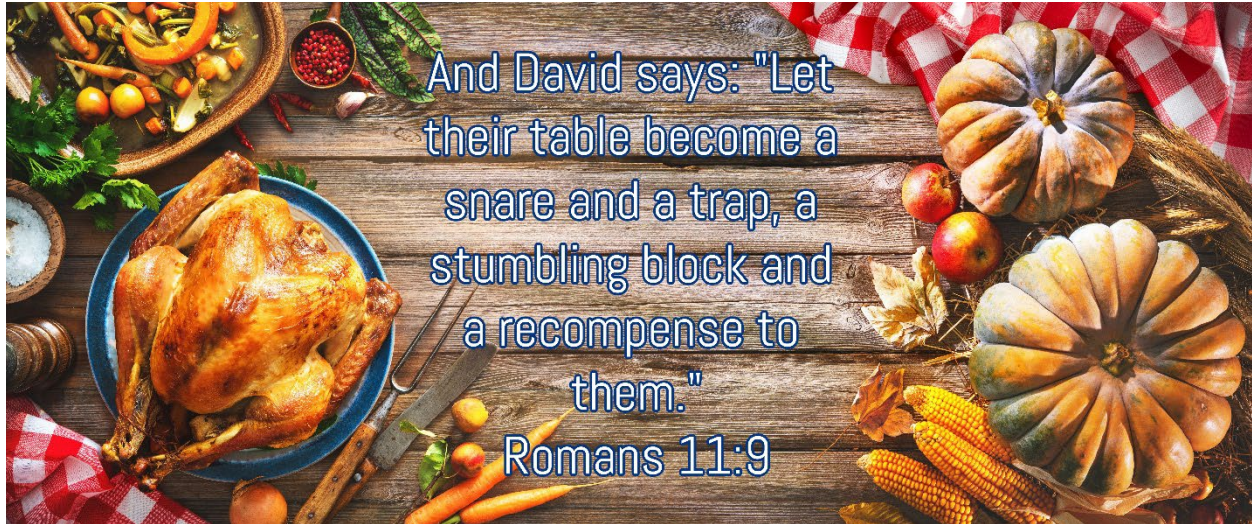
1. *Blinded –*

The ungodly are indeed, for their sins, visited by God's judgment with blindness; but if we seek for the source of their ruin, we must come to this, that being accursed by God, they cannot by all their deeds, sayings, and purposes, get and obtain anything but a curse. John Calvin

2. *A spirit of stupor, spiritual, moral brain-fog, insanity, an inability to think right about God, and such that the stupidity of the stupor, multiplies! Eyes are blind, ears are deaf!*

3. *The Table Trap –*

⁹ And David says: “*Let their table become a snare and a trap, A stumbling block and a recompense to them.*” Romans 11:9 (NKJV)



A. *Literal food, especially delicious food!*

B. *Table = any wealth! The rich man's wealth is his strong city;... Proverbs 10:15 A (NKJV)*

C. Even a wealth of Biblical Learning can be a kind of trap, if it makes us proud –

8 Now concerning things offered to idols: We know that we all have knowledge. **Knowledge puffs up**, but love edifies. 1 Corinthians 8:1 (NKJ)

2 "And now, O priests, this commandment is for you. ² If you will not hear, And if you will not take *it* to heart, To give glory to My name," Says the LORD of hosts, "I will send a curse upon you, And I will curse your blessings. Yes, I have cursed them already, Because you do not take *it* to heart. Malachi 2:1–2 (NKJV)

¹² Therefore let him who thinks he stands take heed lest he fall. 1 Corinthians 10:12 (NKJV)

My greatest fear, and it has been for a long time, and should be for us all!

D. *And there is MORE, blindness and bad backs ... -*

¹⁰ *Let their eyes be darkened, so that they do not see, and bow down their back always.*" Romans 11:10 (NKJV)

Spiritually Blind, Spiritually and Morally WEAK!

¹⁰ Finally, my brethren, be strong in the Lord and in the power of His might. ¹¹ Put on the whole armor of God, that you may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil. ¹² For we do not wrestle against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this age, against spiritual *hosts* of wickedness in the heavenly *places*. ¹³ Therefore take up the whole armor of God, that you may be able to withstand in the evil day, and having done all, **to stand**. Ephesians 6:10–13 (NKJV)

How can we fight Satan in our own strength? We Cannot! Israel in Paul's day did not!

III. Yet, even the bad things; God works for good ...

¹¹ I say then, have they stumbled that they should fall? Certainly not! But through their fall, to provoke them to jealousy, salvation *has come* to the Gentiles. ¹² Now if their fall *is* riches for the world, and their failure riches for the Gentiles, how much more their fullness!

Romans 11:11–12 (NKJV)

1. *The fall of the Jews, opened the door for the salvation of the Gentiles ... this was God's purpose!*
2. *If their fall / failure means riches, what great blessing would their fullness be?*

Arnold A. Brevick