

The Book of Romans

This Week: Lesson: Romans Chapter 11

Next Week: **Homework Scripture Read:** Romans Chapter 12

Lesson Text:

Romans 10:1-4	Self-righteous focus prevented submission to God
Romans 11:1-5	Preservation of Israel
Romans 11:6-11, 12-15	Provoking the Jews by jealousy?
Romans 11:16-24	The illustration of the grafted branches
Romans 11:25-36	The sovereignty of God and His plan for ALL peoples

Discussion:

- **Note** the context of discussion refers generally to the Jew's national identity as a people, not so much in regard to individual Jews.
- **Discuss** the concept from vs. 6-15 of "provoking the Jews" unto salvation by "jealousy of the Gentiles," first, as a case of hope in the context of national/individual human nature, and secondly, as part of the diligent plan of a loving God, and thirdly, as a personal argument from Paul to the Jews, through this letter to the Gentiles which would also circulate among the Jews.
- **Consider** the stumbling of the Jews (rejection and crucifixion of Jesus Christ), as Paul points out (v. 11) that this is not a fatal fall, but recoverable – as evidenced by the early church which was mostly Jews. The Jewish people, then, are not cast aside because of their failure and replaced by the gentiles, but are the same as the gentiles in terms of their opportunity for salvation.
- **Note** that this (v.11) also ties in to God's prophetic promises to the Jewish people, in that, they still exist distinctly before God as a people who have not been abandoned or replaced.
- **Discuss** the horticultural mechanics of grafting branches
- **Discuss** the hardening of Israel (v. 25), compare to the hardening of Pharaoh – hardening by God not being a destructive act of God upon individuals or races, but rather an element of God's plan (theological term is the "decree of God.") in His sovereignty.

Open Question:

Turning the jealousy around, how does it feel to be the grafted branch? Are gentiles second class citizens?