

## The Root and the Branches – Romans 10-11



MEMORY VERSE: ...if you confess with your mouth that Jesus is Lord and believe in your heart that God raised Him from the dead, you will be saved. For with the heart one believes and is justified, and with the mouth one confesses and is saved. Romans 10:9,10

### DAY 1 ROMANS 10:1-13 — Misdirected Zeal vs. Faith

1. What is wrong with the zeal of the Jews? vv.1-4
2. What is the difference between righteousness based on the law and righteousness based on faith? vv.5-8
3. Why is verse 8 especially encouraging?
4. Why are both confession and belief necessary for salvation in Christ? vv.9-10
5. What is true of everyone who puts their trust in Jesus Christ to be made right with God?

Galatians 3:28-29

### DAY 2 ROMANS 10:14-21 — Hearing and Believing

6. What must happen for a person get to a place where they call on God? vv.14-17

### LEARN THE TRUTH

Paul continues sharing his heart and prayers for his people, the Jews, who have much zeal, yet still miss the key to life- faith in Jesus Christ. Salvation by grace through faith is profound, yet simple, and is available to any honest seeker. Do not let religious zeal blind you to the truth.

7. How do these truths impact your understanding of God's methods and our personal responsibility?
  
8. How has the nation of Israel "heard" the gospel of salvation through Jesus Christ? vv.18-19; Psalm 19
  
9. According to Israel's own prophets, did the nation of Israel "understand" the good news of Jesus?  
Moses v.19  
  
Isaiah v. 20  
  
Isaiah v. 21
  
10. Why do you think "disobedience" and a "contrary" heart make it difficult to understand God? And why might God provoking one to "jealousy" and "anger" actually help the rebellious person?

### **DAY 3** ROMANS 11:1-10 — The Faithful Remnant

11. What proofs are given that God has not rejected Israel even though they have rejected Him? vv.1-4
  
12. What are the Jews who did not reject Christ called and how did they receive salvation? vv.5-6
  
13. Who is Baal, and what was Israel's grievous sin with Baal? Numbers 25:1-5
  
14. What was the result of Israel's rejection of God? vv.7-10
  
15. Knowing that God is good and loves Israel, how do you reconcile verse 10:21 with verses 11:7-10?

### **DAY 4** ROMANS 11:11-24 — The Root and the Branches

16. What hope and higher purpose of God do you see in verses 11-16?
  
17. While jealousy is normally considered a sin, how is it a good thing in verses 11 and 14? (and 10:19)

18. Identify each part of the olive tree and describe it's fate or purpose. vv.16-20  
branches-

wild shoots-

root-

19. What warning is given to the wild shoots in verses 18-21? Why is this warning also important for us today?

2 Corinthians 10:17-18

20. How would you describe the kindness and severity of God in this context? 21-24

## DAY 5 ROMANS 11:25-33 – The Mystery of Mercy

21. What mystery did Paul want the Christians to understand, and why was this needed? v.25

Acts 13:38-48

22. What truths are we given about the partial hardening and future hope for Israel? vv.26-29

23. What do both Jews and Gentiles have in common? vv.30-32

24. How do verses 33-36 encourage you as you sometimes struggle to understand God's ways?

25. What one truth, challenge or inspiration stands out to you from Romans 10 and 11?

### LOVE THE TRUTH

Jesus Christ is the nourishing root. No one can take pride in their position as either a natural branch or a wild shoot. It is only by God's magnificent mercy that one can be part of the olive tree! All who believe in Christ become one in Christ, Abraham's offspring and heirs according to God's promise.

## Romans 10-11

### The Root and the Branches

At this time in our study, we must differentiate between nations and individuals. Paul is heartbroken over the nation of Israel, who has rebelled against God. He warned His chosen people, the Jews, that they were continually relying on their bloodline and knowledge of the law for righteousness rather than on God Himself. They valued extra Biblical knowledge and man made laws to make them right with God. The wonderful truth is that what can be known about God is available to us right here and now when the message of His Word, as in the Bible, is in our hearts and mouths.

We are now living in the times of the Gentiles, when the nation of Israel is put on hold, so to speak. Today non-Jewish people more readily recognize Jesus as the Messiah, the Savior, while most Jews reject Him. Individually, anyone can come to Christ at any time in history as God's character is evident through creation and through the Law He gave Israel. People need to hear the truth to believe and God calls each of us to make His Word known to others so they can believe.

No matter what is going on in the world, God always has a "remnant" of believers. Paul is an example of a Jew who recognized Jesus Christ when his kinsmen did not. He once had misdirected zeal for God and for Judaism, but Christ opened his eyes to true knowledge of God, rather than legalistic religious knowledge. If you ever feel like the whole world is against God and hates you for following Him, look for the remnant, those who have not bought into the world's way of thinking. There are always faithful followers of Christ. Even if you see the church turn away from Biblical truth, look for the remnant, the small group who has not bowed down to evil.

Just as God warned the Jews not to take pride in their bloodline, He warns Gentile believers not to take pride in the fact that they seem to have "figured it out" by be-

lieving in Christ. Gentile believers have no business looking down on the Jews who "don't get it," as they have been grafted in to the root of Christ. Gentiles are not the natural branches, but are a "wild shoot," and should be forever grateful for God's grace and mercy. Pray for those who are living in darkness! God cares deeply about the natural branches that have been pruned, and when the time is right Jews will return to Him and be grafted in again. God has shown mercy to the world by revealing Himself through the Jews, and He has shown mercy to the Jews by revealing Himself to the Gentiles. Trust in the ROOT, for all who are connected to Him are one in Christ and will be saved.

### WALK IN TRUTH



The way to salvation is quite simple- heartfelt confession and belief in Jesus Christ. God has a purpose for each of His children- to know Him and to bring others to Him. He has a call on each of our lives, but if we choose to live in disobedience with a contrary heart, we miss everything He has for us and actually blind ourselves. His purpose for each of His children is that they not only confess and believe in Him wholeheartedly, but that they learn and love His Word. We must walk in Biblical truth in order to impact people for Christ.

Examine your heart today. Is there anything in your life- a habit, attitude or practice that is keeping you from fulfilling God's purpose? Do you ever feel jealous of people who seem especially close to God? Perhaps God is trying to get your attention. Let that jealousy motivate you to draw closer to the Lord. May you know the depth of His riches, wisdom and glory by trusting in the Root.