

The Gospel Story: Mercy to All

A Study of Romans

Romans 11:1-36

Pastor Bryan Clark

Opening Discussion

1. What do you understand to be true of the “Gospel Story”? Is your salvation merely a ticket to heaven that you picked up along the way or is there something more to the story? Is it possible that you somehow figure into the fulfillment of God’s plan for all Creation?
2. What would you consider some of the “mysteries” of God?
3. In our “google” world we’ve removed much of the mystery of life. We have answers and information at our finger tips. We have GPS to lead us and in many ways take the discovery out of a new adventure. We follow but we don’t really discover. So where do you find mystery and discovery in your life today? When was the last time you were like a child on Christmas morning because of a new discovery or an experience that filled your mind with wonder?

Bible Study

1. Review briefly what you learned in Romans 9 and 10. What were the main points?
2. In a sense, chapter 11 takes the concepts of God’s election and human responsibility and puts them together to tell the bigger story of God’s redemption. The focus in this chapter should not be to figure out all the details but rather to understand there is a bigger story playing out and to wonder that God would invite you into the story. Perhaps it would be good for a couple people to own the responsibility of reminding the group to not get lost in the details and keep the bigger story in view.
3. Read Romans 11:1-10. What is the evidence that God has not abandoned the Jewish people according to this text? How do you see the concepts from chapters 9 and 10 playing out in this text?
4. Compare what Paul says in 11:6 with what he says in Galatians 2:15-21. Is there any way that salvation by works and salvation by faith can be compatible belief systems? Therefore, what must one conclude concerning any belief system regarding salvation that introduces any work into the conversation as a requirement for salvation?

5. Read Romans 11:11-36. What is the big story as it relates to Israel and the Gentiles? What is the warning to us as Gentiles?
6. Does this text indicate God is done with ethnic Israel or is there still more God plans to do in order to fulfill his covenant promises to them?
7. God told Abraham that He would bless those who bless them and curse those who curse them (Genesis 12:1-3). If God still has plans for Ethnic Israel as a nation then is this promise still in effect? What does this mean for us today as a nation in relation to Israel?
8. Although it is impossible to understand how all this has played out in history and will play out in the future, what does this text teach us about our salvation? How does this affect my view concerning the security of our salvation?
9. While we can't really explain all the details about how all this works, what is God's heart towards sinful people according to 11:30-32?
10. While many students of the Bible seem determined to figure all this out what does 11:33-36 tell us? Is the point of Romans 8-11 for us to figure out how all this works out in the plan of God or to see the bigger story that we've been invited into? Why does this matter?

Application

1. Can you summarize Romans 8-11? What is the point? Why does it matter?
2. What are the three most significant truths you learned from these difficult chapters? How does each of these three affect your daily life?
3. What should be the proper attitude toward difficult things in the Bible based on 11:33-36?