

A Remnant of Israel Chosen by Grace / Romans 11:1-10

(Sermon Questions for Life Groups: November 18th, 2018)

Ice Breaker: Share of a time that you were not invited to a special gathering while others that you knew were invited. How did it make you feel? In what way would you seek to coach someone else (maybe your own child or a friend) who was not invited to a special gathering? Was it wrong of the one who threw the party or event not to invite some while inviting others?

Read Romans 11:1-10 together / Pray and ask God for the Spirit's wisdom.

Questions taken from Romans 11:1-10

1. What evidence did Paul give to his Jewish listeners that God had not totally rejected the nation Israel? (v. 1)
2. Why was the godly prophet Elijah praying to God against Israel? (vv. 2-3) Was this Biblical of Elijah? How was the majority of the nation of Israel behaving spiritually?
3. What was God's response to Elijah in verse 4? What is the divine action taken by God according to verse 4? Who was responsible for reserving or keeping these 7,000 men? What does it mean that these faithful 7,000 did not "bow the knee to Baal"?
4. The implication made by Paul is that God had chosen a remnant for Himself—even to that day. The entire nation of Israel was not chosen by God to be saved. Why does Paul repeatedly say that there was a remnant "chosen by grace"? (vv. 4-5)
5. If works of any kind, *retrospective* or *prospective*, come into salvation, then is it still of grace? Did God determine Israel's salvation based off of their past behavior or future obedience~~or even their ability to trust Him? How does this reinforce being "chosen by grace"?
6. What does Paul mean in verse 7 when he says that Israel failed to obtain what they were looking for? Who are the elect (or chosen) that obtained this relationship with God?
7. According to verse 8, God gave to certain people in Israel *a spirit of stupor*, an attitude of deadness towards spiritual things. *We must remember that those who failed God did not do so because they had been hardened, but they were hardened because they had failed him.*

Can this hardening that comes by resisting God be a terminal disorder in which there is no return (v. 8)? In what ways did many in the nation of Israel remain dead to God according to verse 8? Was deadness to God Israel's current situation as Paul was speaking to them?
8. Israel's inability to trust God or delight in God brought about a *spiritual insensitivity* according to verses 9-10. Does this happen today? Explain.

Application:

If we are part of God's elect (chosen) people then what changes in our lives? What attitude should we have towards God and others?