

Tuesday Evening Bible Study
Series #7: Paul's Letter to the Romans
Session #7: Chapters 11-12
Tuesday, November 22, 2016

Outline

I. The Inclusive Saving Power of the Gospel (1:18 – 11:36)

A. The inclusion of the Gentiles on the basis of righteousness by faith (1:18 – 4:25)

B. The sure hope of salvation springing from righteousness by faith (5:1 – 8:39)

C. God's Election and Inclusion of Israel (9:1 – 11:36)

- Israel, the original recipient of the promises of salvation, seems to miss out on obtaining them, while Gentiles, who appeared to have no part in them, seem to have salvation firmly within their grasp.

i) Israel's unbelief (9:1-5)

ii) The elective pattern of God's working (9:6-29)

iii) Israel's rejection of the Gospel (9:30 – 10:21)

iv) Israel's inclusion in the community of salvation (11:1-32)

a) Israel's rejection is not final (11:1-10)

- Israel may have rejected God, but God has remained faithful to his chosen people, though not necessarily through their works, but through grace.
 - (i) The form of Paul's question presupposes a negative answer.
 1. 1 Samuel 12:22 – For the Lord will not cast away his people, for his great name's sake, because it has pleased the Lord to make you a people for himself.
 2. Psalm 94:14 – For the Lord will not abandon his people, nor will he forsake his own.

(ii) Foreknew = suggests election

(iii) Chosen by grace. (receiving that which is not deserved)

b) Israel's "stumbling" has a saving purpose (11:11-24)

- Israel's rejection has led to salvation of the Gentiles. (wider divine purpose)
- Gentiles were "grafted in" like the branch of a tree.

c) The final salvation of All Israel (11:25-32)

- God's mercy is inclusive. The Gentiles will get in on the promise.

v) Hymn to God's Inscrutable Wisdom (11:33-36)

- This section forms a conclusion to the Paul's proclamation of the gospel up to this point.
- Follows a pattern reminiscent of Job 28.
- The only thing that humans can appropriately give to God is glory.

II. The Summons to Live according to the Gospel (12:1-15:13)

- Here Paul turns from soteriology (*soter* = salvation) to practical Christian living.

A. Christian life as "rational worship" (12:1-2)

- Body as a "living sacrifice."
- One's total existence is given over to God.

B. The basic demands of Christian living (12:3 – 13:14)

i) A due assessment of one's personal gift (12:3-8)

- Adopting the "right attitude of mind"

- *Charis* usually refers to the grace of God, but here it refers to the gift that a believer receives from God.
 - *Charisma* refers to the way in which the gift (*charis*) impacts others. That is to say, the way in which the gifted person communicates to others through the exercise of his/her particular gift.
- ii) Love in action within the community (12:9-16)**
- Here Paul offers a list of qualities that should be part of Christian community life.
- iii) Love in action outside the community (12:17-21)**
- Things to give over to God.

Resources

B. Byrne, *Romans in Sacra Pagina Series*, D. J. Harrington, editor (Collegeville, MN: Liturgical Press, 2007)