

The Irrevocable Call of God

Romans 11:17-36

Introduction

I God's Plan for the Gentiles Illustrated

- A. The fact of the Gentiles' dependence
 - 1. Some natural branches have been **broken off** - Jer 11:16-17
 - 2. A wild olive shoot has been **grafted in**
 - a. It shares the **root** with the natural branches
 - b. It shares the nourishing **sap** of the root - Eph 3:6
- B. The response of the Gentiles' dependence
 - 1. **Humility**: Do not boast over the Jews - Rom 3:27
 - 2. **Gratitude**: Do not be arrogant - 1 Pet 5:5-6
 - a. The branches were broken off for unbelief - Heb 3:12
 - b. We were grafted in because of faith - Rom 4:16-17
 - 3. **Fear**: We too could be broken off - Phil 2:12-13
- C. The basis of the Gentiles' dependence
 - 1. God's character in action
 - a. His **sternness** to those who fell - 1 Cor 10:1-5, 11-13
 - b. His **kindness** to those who continue - Heb 3:13-15
 - 1. Otherwise you also will be **cut off** - Matt 3:8-10
 - 2. God's restoration in action
 - a. Those who don't persist in **unbelief** will be grafted in

II God's Remedy to Gentile Conceit Revealed

- A. God has allowed Israel to experience a partial **hardening**
 - 1. Until the **full number** of Gentiles has come in - Rom 11:11
 - 2. In future, "**All** Israel will be saved" - Hos 3:4-5
- B. God will send a deliver from Zion - Is 59:20
 - 1. He will turn Jacob from **godlessness** - Acts 3:26
 - 2. He will take away their **sins** - Heb 10:16-17
 - a. Because of the Gospel, they are "enemies" - Col 1:21
 - b. But because of election, they are loved - Deut 4:31
 - 1. For God's **gifts** are irrevocable
 - 2. For God's **calling** is irrevocable - Ps 89:34
- C. God will show mercy to both Jew and Gentile
 - 1. Gentiles were at one time disobedience to God

- a. But have now received mercy - 1 Pet 2:10
- 2. The Jews have become disobedient to God
 - a. In order that they may receive mercy - 1 Tim 1:13-14
- 3. God has **bound** all men over to disobedience - Gal 3:22
 - a. In order to have **mercy** on them all - 1 Tim 2:2-5

III God's Plan of Salvation Extolled

- A. God is distinguished in His **intellect** - Col 2:1-4
- B. God is distinguished in his justice - Is 40:28; Prov 25:2
- C. God is distinguished in His **knowledge** - Is 40:13-14
- D. God is distinguished in His generosity - Job 41:11
- E. God is distinguished in His **sovereignty** - Col 1:15-19

PERSONAL APPLICATION

Take some time this week to consider the following questions:

- 1. What is necessary to produce healthy, plump, delicious fruit?
How do these principles relate to the Christian life? [Jn 15]
- 2. If you were to describe your present spiritual life in terms of a branch, would you be: 1) Broken off and dead? 2) Attached but withering? 3) Healthy looking but fruitless? 4) Healthy and consistently bearing fruit? How can you be more fruitful?
- 3. When you think of God, how do you tend to view Him? As doting and permissive? As angry and harsh? How has your view affected your relationship with Him?
- 4. Why does God want to bind all men over to disobedience (vs. 33)? Have you been convinced of your need of God's mercy? How does your life evidence a daily dependence on Him?
- 5. Which of God's traits does Paul celebrate in verses 33-36? How are verses 33-36 a fitting summary to the facts of chaps. 9-11?
- 6. Take a moment to thank God for "grafting you on" to the Root, Jesus Christ. Ask Him for a heart of humility, gratitude and fear and for an opportunity to share with someone this week the marvelous gift of life through faith in Jesus Christ.

BOB HALLMAN - THE EPIC LIFE

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