

Romans 11:30-36

Mercy Upon All

1. 11:28-30 – Mercy Through Their Unbelief

- a. Paul finishes his explanation of how God keeps his words to Israel despite their failure.
 - i. Did Israel receive what they was promised? No. Did God keep his word? Yes. How!?
- b. 11:30 - *"mercy through their unbelief"* - Their failure was to believe.
- c. Matt 21:23-32, 43 – The parable of the two sons explains Israel's failure and mercy.
 - i. The first son was formerly in rebellion, but obtains by mercy what the other doesn't
 - ii. The repentant son receives mercy of the father, through belief.
 - iii. This characterizes remnant Israel, but also Gentiles, and even fallen Israel.
- d. 11:28 - *"they are enemies"* At this time concerning Israel, but not for ever.
 - i. Rebellious Israel was an enemy, Gentiles were always enemies, now so is Israel.
 - ii. *"but they are beloved"* ... according to his promised purpose given to Israel.
- e. v29 – God does not forget or fail his promises. Israel has promises. We do not.
- f. v30 – *"through their unbelief"* - Their unbelief results in the fall of the holy, mercy to unholy
 - i. Their unbelief killed John, crucified Christ, rejects the Spirit, kingdom, repentance.
 - ii. All receive mercy today by the cross of Christ, witnessed by Spirit, received by faith.
 - iii. By grace, Paul ministers blessing because of Israel's rejection of Christ (cross)

2. 11:31 – Your Mercy, Their Mercy

- a. 11:30 - *"as ye in times past ... yet...now"* - Just as in the parable, there is time element.
- b. v31 *"these also now not believed"* – They are now in unbelief, as ye were before.
 - i. Israel is in unbelief now, they are blind now, they are among the unholy/ungodly.
- c. *"that through your mercy"* - Mercy was given toward unholy sinners, why not Israel.
 - i. The same way you receive mercy is how they will obtain mercy.
 - ii. Paul explains how God has mercy/grace upon all, even the remnant - Acts 15:11
 - iii. By God's mercy, the nation will return and be saved acc. to the election of grace.

3. 11:32 – Mercy Upon All

- a. *"For God hath concluded"* – This is God working according to his word despite their failure
 - i. *"them all in unbelief"* – Even the sanctified "holy" nation of Israel who failed.
 - ii. (Note: KJ says unbelief, others say disobedience which confuses it w/works)
 - iii. Israel's failure to believe was not a failure of the word of God – Rom 3:3-4
 - iv. (The failure of the church is not a failure of God's grace, either)
- b. *"that he..."* – He purposely let them stumble and fall, so he could save them by his mercy.
 - i. It was no question Israel was promised salvation, but how was a mystery.
 - ii. There was no question Gentiles would be blessed, but how was more a mystery.
- c. God's conclusion: he can give mercy to all, because he must keep his promise to Israel.
 - i. He can give mercy to all, because they are all sinners (ignorant ones) - 1Tim 1:12-16
- d. *"mercy to all"* = Rebellious Israel (remnant), Gentiles, fallen Israel (Israel's return)
 - i. God withholds his wrath upon all, but he does not withhold his justice (cross)
- e. You can see here how Paul's mystery aligning with prophecy though not prophesied.
- f. God's mercy to all through Israel's fall not plan B – it is how He fulfils His word to them.
 - i. (Still no mention of a new creature, our heavenly position, etc in Rom 9-11)

4. 11:33-36 – For His Glory For Ever

- a. Paul praises God for his wisdom and knowledge... why?
 - i. Though Israel failed to get what God promised, it works for their own salvation.
- b. *"O the depth"* - Paul knows something about depths of hidden things - Eph 3:9-10, 18-19
- c. *"wisdom and knowledge of God"* – It was purposed already, kept 'through their fall' secret
- d. *"unsearchable"* – His ways beyond us (unless he reveals them) – Isa 55:8, Ps 92:5, Eph 3:8
- e. *"ways past finding out"* – There were hidden things, we now know some – 1 Cor 2:7-9
 - i. Everything in Rom 9-11 was prophesied, even the conclusion.
 - ii. That Israel's salvation, salvation of all, would be a result of their failure, was hidden.
- f. *"who hath known the mind of the Lord"* – None is like him, keeping His word - Isa 40:13, 8
 - i. We are not God or Christ, but we have the mind of Christ – 1 Cor 2:9-10, 16
 - ii. There were things kept secret that no one knew – Job 15:8
- g. *"who hath first given to him..."* -No one. He is before all, above all. Job 35:5-7, 41:11
 - i. Paul once again quotes prophesy to even show the excellency of God's mysteries.
- h. *"of him, through him, to him"* – God's purpose past, present, future.
 - i. *"of him"* - Maker of all Gen 1:1, Col 1:16
 - ii. *"through him"* - His grace - Col 1:20, 2:3, Phi 4:13, Rom 3:24
 - iii. *"to him"* - All glory to God through Jesus Christ – Phi 2:11, Rom 16:27, Eph 1:10
- i. *"are all things"* – Whether they be heaven/earth, Israel/Gentiles, prophecy/mystery
- j. *"be glory for ever"* – We are not giving him glory –what do we have to give him?
 - i. God is glorified from this mercy and grace to all! His wisdom and knowledge!
 - ii. He is glorified through the fulfilling of his word to save Israel and bless the world.