

Sermon Discussion Questions

God Never Stops

Romans 11:23-36

September 16, 2018

1. Jeremy started by illustrating how we are all on a journey and asked if Psalm 121 expresses how we are going on this journey. Would Psalm 121 describe your journey (i.e., do you have that kind of a consciousness of the Lord's involvement in your life)? Why or why not?
2. Romans 11:25 warns that we are not to be wise in our own estimation. How do people think they are wise when in fact they are not? What is the difference between being wise and being intelligent?
 - a. Paul gave other warnings in chapter 11. What are they specifically in Romans 11:18, 20?
 - i. If someone displays this kind of attitude what is your normal way of dealing with it: (a) Ignore them, (b) argue with them, (c) gossip about them, (d) call their sin out to them, (e) some other way of dealing with them? Explain.
 - ii. How ought we to deal with this kind of sin in another person's life (cf. Gal. 6:1)?
3. Here is how Jeremy described Romans 11:28: From the standpoint of the gospel (*the good news about Jesus and salvation through Him alone*) they (*Israel*) are enemies (*they are not involved in bringing the gospel to the world*) for your sake (*you Gentiles get to bring the gospel to the world*), but from the standpoint of God's choice (*God's heart and His plan driven by His heart*) they are beloved for the sake of the fathers (*Abraham, Isaac, Jacob*).
 - a. Remember the story of Bethany taking care of her Guinee Pigs? In what ways can we show love and care for the world in tangible ways in order to tell them about Jesus?
 - b. Review the four elements of the gospel that we are to tell the world about (remember in your bulletin there were only three blanks but Jeremy added a fourth). Which ones do you think we at Faith are doing pretty well at and which ones are we weaker at? How can we communicate (witness of) this gospel better as individuals (remember the story of Leighton Ford, Billy Graham's brother-in-law—it's not just the job of the "big guns")? How can we improve our witness as a church family?
4. In Romans 11:30-32 Paul writes about "disobedience" and God's "mercy." When people are disobedient (not honoring God with their lives; not being about His work in the world), what negative emotions might we feel toward them? What has to grow in our hearts in order to feel mercy toward them—like God does? How can we develop this kind of heart?
5. Finally, lets read out loud Romans 11:33-36. Then, use each sentence in those verses as a guide for the prayer time together. In other words—read a sentence, then use that sentence as the guide for what we are praying about. Then, move to the next sentence and use it as a guide for what to pray...all the way through until "Amen."