Lesson 12
November 22, 2026

God's Salvation Plan:

Jesus saves Jews and Gentiles who put their trust in Him alone.

THE LESSON OVERVIEW

Israel's spiritual journey, God's inclusive message, and the inclusion of Gentiles into His family are themes in Romans 9:30 through 11:25. Paul critiques Israel's pursuit of righteousness through works instead of faith. He then explores the Gospel's life-changing power, contrasting faith-based righteousness with adherence to the Mosaic Law. He also emphasizes God's universal invitation of salvation, His unwavering faithfulness to Israel, and His redemptive plan for Gentiles. Paul teaches unity between all Christians in God's kingdom. Faith emerges as the key to righteousness, uniting Jews, and Gentiles in God's eternal family.

HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

Faith is at the heart of Paul's theology of righteousness, serving as the sole means by which one is justified before God. In Romans and Galatians, Paul asserts that righteousness is not earned through the Law or human effort but is a divine gift granted through faith in Christ. This faith unites believers with Christ, whose death and resurrection form the basis for justification. Paul's belief in salvation by grace transcends cultural and religious boundaries, emphasizing trust in God over external Law or rituals and placing faith at the center of righteousness and the Christian life. Works do not save, but a saved person's works should glorify God.

THE LESSON OUTLINE

1. **ISRAEL'S IGNORANCE: Romans 9:30 THROUGH 10:4.**
    - A. The Pursuit of Righteousness Without Faith, (9:30-32)
    - B. Christ as the Fulfillment of the Law, (10:1-4)
2. **GOD'S GOOD NEWS: Romans 10:5-15.**
    - A. Righteousness of Faith Versus Law, (5-10)
    - B. The Universal Call of the Gospel, (11-15)
3. **GRAFTED INTO GOD'S FAMILY: Romans 11:1-2, 7, 11, 15-25.**
    - A. God's Faithfulness to His People, (1-2, 7, 11)
    - B. Gentiles Grafted into God's Family, (15-25)

DISCUSSING THE LESSON

1. ISRAEL'S IGNORANCE: Romans 9:30-10:4.

A. The Pursuit of Righteousness Without Faith, Romans 9:30-32.

Paul draws a contrast between believing Gentiles, who attained righteousness through faith in Christ, and unbelieving Jews, who pursued righteousness through the works of the Law rather than through faith in Christ. Israel's reliance on the Law of Moses led them to overlook the cornerstone of salvation – faith in Christ. Paul explains that the saved Gentiles, who had not sought righteousness through works, were able to attain it through faith. Righteousness is a gift from God, accessible only through believing in Jesus Christ, rather than something earned by human merit or religious observance.

The pursuit of righteousness without faith is a hopeless effort, as illustrated by Israel's failure to recognize Christ as the foundation of salvation (v. 32). Their reliance on the Mosaic Law became a stumbling block because they sought to establish their own righteousness. This passage challenges us to assess whether our approach to God is rooted in self-reliance or humble trust in His grace. It reminds us that faith is the key that unlocks a relationship with God and leads to true righteousness, holiness, and godliness are achieved by depending on God's provision of grace through Jesus Christ, rather than personal merit achieved through works.

B. Christ as the Fulfillment of the Law, Romans 10:1-4.

Isreal had stumbles, but Paul expressed his sincere desire for Israel's salvation" "Brethren, my heart's desire and prayer to God for Israel is, that they may be saved" (v. 1). He lamented their misguided zeal for God, which was "not based on knowledge" (v. 2 NIV). Paul said they sought to establish their own righteousness through adherence to the Law, failing to submit to "the righteousness of God" (v. 3). He said Christ is the fulfillment of the Law, thus bringing it to its intended conclusion. It is Christ and not the Law that brings righteousness to "everyone that believeth" (v. 4). The Law, while holy and good, served as a tutor leading people to recognize their need for redemption (Galatians 3:24). Christ fulfilled the Law by perfectly embodying its demands and offering His righteousness as a gift to those who believe in Him.

This passage invites us to embrace the sufficiency of Christ's work and recognize the futility of striving for self-righteousness. We must embrace faith as the means of accessing God's grace, rather than relying on human efforts based on legalism. The fulfillment of the Law in Christ signifies that salvation is not achieved through external rituals or moral perfection but through a personal relationship with Him. As Paul wrote in Ephesians 2:8, "For by grace you have been saved through faith, and that not of yourselves; it is the gift of God" (NKJV). Romans 10:1-4 calls us to surrender pride and self-reliance, recognizing that true righteousness is found only in Christ, who perfectly accomplished what the Law required and graciously extends His righteousness to all who believe in Him.

Like ancient Israel, we sometimes strive to prove our worth through actions, for getting that God's grace is freely given. This truth calls us to surrender self-reliance, embracing Christ's sufficiency, and trust in His perfect work for our salvation. Paul's words challenge us to approach

God with humility, letting faith deepen our relationship with Him. It is through belief in Christ, not in what we achieve, that we find our true worth. We can rest in the assurance of God's grace, allowing it to inspire a life that brings Him glory.

2. GOD'S GOOD NEWS: Romans 10:5-15.

A. Righteousness of Faith Verses Law, Romans 10:5-10.

Paul contrasts righteousness through the Law with righteousness through faith in Christ. He begins by referencing Moses, who wrote, "The man who does those things shall live by them" (v. 5 NKJV). The Law demands perfect obedience, which is unattainable for human beings due to sin. The Law's righteousness depends on human effort, leaving individuals in a perpetual state of striving and falling short. In contrast, Paul discussed "the righteousness of faith" (v. 6 NKJV), which does not rely on human achievement but on the redemptive work of Christ. He emphasizes that this righteousness is accessible to all, stating, "The word is near you, in your mouth and in your heart" (v. 8 NKJV). Receiving salvation requires only a confession of faith and belief in one's heart: "If thou shalt confess with thy mouth the Lord Jesus, and shalt believe in thine heart that God hath raised Him from the dead, thou shalt be saved." (v. 9).

When we believe in Christ, God's grace transcends the limitations of the Law. While the Law exposes sin and reveals our need for redemption, faith provided the means to attain righteousness through Christ's atoning sacrifice. By believing in Jesus' resurrection and confessing His lordship, we are justified and reconciled to God through His grace.

"There is but one way to Heaven, and that is Christ. But there are many ways to hell: especially these two; some walk a more clean way of self-righteousness and others a more dirty way of open wickedness; but both meet together at the end" (Ralph Erskine).

B. The Universal Call of the Gospel, Romans 10:11-15.

Verse 11 reveals the inclusivity of the Gospel: "Whosoever believeth on Him shall not be ashamed." This invitation transcends cultural, ethnic, and social barriers: "For there is no difference between the Jew and the Greek, for the same Lord over all is rich unto all that call upon Him" (v. 12). The heart of God's redemptive plan is a love that reaches out to every individual, uniting all believers through faith in Christ. Paul reinforced this truth by declaring, "Everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved" (v. 13 NIV).

Evangelist Billy Graham said, "Is it not arrogance or narrow-mindedness to claim that there is only one way of salvation or that the way we follow is the right way? I think not. After all, do we fault a pilot for being narrow-minded when he follows the instrument panel while landing in a rainstorm? No, we want him to remain narrowly focused!"

The next two verses in Romans 10 focus on the necessity of proclamation and response. Paul asked rhetorical questions (the answer is implied in the questions themselves) to emphasize the critical role of evangelism: "How then shall they call on Him in whom they have not believed? And how shall they believe in Him of whom they have not heard? And how shall they hear without a preacher?" (v. 14 NKJV). These questions stress our responsibility as Christians to

share the Gospel so others may hear and respond. In the New Testament, important messages were often communicated by messengers who traveled on foot. Thus, the beauty of Gospel messengers is captured in verse 15: "How beautiful are the feet of them that preach the gospel of peace and bring glad tidings of good things!"

The simplicity and inclusivity of the Gospel as Paul preached it is profound. Unlike the rigorous demands of the Law, righteousness by faith calls us to trust in God's grace and Christ's redemptive death and resurrection. It's not about working to earn salvation through perfect obedience, but a life-changing belief and confession of faith. How comforting to know salvation is near, freely available to all who call on the Lord's name! this invitation overcomes all barriers, showcasing God's limitless love for everyone. Yet Paul challenges us to share this hope-filled message so others may believe. The imagery of "beautiful feet" spreading the Gospel should renew our sense of purpose, inspiring gratitude, and boldness to live out and share God's grace.

3. GRAFTED INTO GOD'S FAMILY: Romans 11:1-2, 7, 11, 15-25.

A. God's Faithfulness to His People, Romans 11:1-2, 7, 11.

Chapter 11 highlights God's unwavering faithfulness to His people, even amid their shortcomings and failures. Verse 1 asks, "Has God cast away His people?" and answers with a resounding "Certainly not!" (NKJV). This declaration clarifies the enduring covenant God has with Israel, rooted in His grace, and promises rather than human merit. Verse 2 reinforces this truth, declaring that God's foreknowledge of His people is unchanging. Despite Israel's partial hardening, as noted in versew7, God's plan of redemption remains intact. His faithfulness flows from His character as a covenant-keeping God. This is a profound reminder that His promises are steadfast and reliable, offering assurance that His purposes will prevail.

Furthermore, verse 11 reveals the redemptive nature of God's faithfulness. Paul explains that Israel's stumbling is not final but serves a greater purpose – to bring salvation to the Gentiles and provoke Israel to return to God. This demonstrates God's ability to transform human failure into an opportunity for grace and restoration. His faithfulness is not limited to one group but extends universality, demonstrating His inclusive love and sovereign plan for humanity. These verses encourage us to trust in God's unchanging nature and His ability to work all things for good. We should meditate on His mercy and live in gratitude for the privilege of being part of His redemptive story. This is a testament to His unwavering commitment to His people across all generations.

B. Gentiles Grafted Into God's Family, Romans 11:15-25.

Paul presented the metaphor of Gentiles being grafted into the olive tree, symbolizing God's covenant family. He explains that Israel's temporary rejection has opened the door for Gentiles to receive salvation, emphasizing God's redemptive plan to extend His grace to all people. Verse 17 describes Gentiles as wild olive branches grafted into the cultivated tree, signifying their inclusion in the blessings of God's promises. This illustrates both the unity and diversity withing God's family, as Gentiles now share in the richness of the root that nourished Israel. Paul's

emphasis on humility in verse 18 reminds Gentiles not to boast against the natural branches but to recognize their own dependence on God's grace. As Christians, we should marvel at the wisdom of God's plan, which transforms rejection into reconciliation and unites people form all nations under His covenant.

Verses 23-25 express the promised hope of restoration for Israel, affirming that God's mercy remains available to all who turn to Him in faith. Paul warns against arrogance and complacency, urging both Jews and Gentiles to remain steadfast in their faith, because unbelief leads to being "cut off" from the tree (v. 22). This serves as a call to humility and perseverance, reminding us that inclusion in God's family is solely by His grace. The mystery revealed in verse 25 – that Israel's partial hardening will result in the fullness of Gentile salvation – points to God's sovereign orchestration of history. This passage reveals humanity's interconnectedness within God's redemptive plan, encouraging believers to embrace gratitude and unity while eagerly anticipating the fulfillment of His promises.

Romans 11 reveals the nature of God's faithfulness. Despite human failures, His promises remain firm – not because we merit them, but due to His unwavering grace. The image of Gentiles being grafted into the olive tree beautifully illustrates how God unites people into one family, nourished and sustained by His love and enduring promises. It's humbling to recognize that we belong to this family solely thanks to His kindness, reminding us to remain grateful and grounded. God's ability to transform rejection into connection and turn failure into beauty demonstrates His unmatched wisdom and mercy.

CALL TO DISCIPLESHIP

It is impossible to be a disciple of Jesus apart from faith. True disciples genuinely believe in the Teacher and trust Him to lead them on the right path that leads to the desired destruction.

MINISTRY IN ACTION

Multicultural ministry can be challenging, but it is extremely rewarding. Learning to appreciate the cultures of others while maintaining unity through faith in Jesus is a glorious pursuit.

Paul's Intention to Visit the Christians at Rome

Near the beginning of his Letter to the Romans, the Apostle Paul told them of his praying that "if, by some means, now at last I may find a way in the will of God to come to you" (1:10). In the Book of Acts, Luke the writer, who was with Paul, tells of how, "in the will of God," Paul arrived in Rome three years later ((AD 61).

Paul's Letter to the Romans was written in Corinth, Greece, in the winter of AD 57-58, and was likely taken to Rome by Phoebe (Romans 16:1-2). At the end of his Third Missionary Journey, Paul departed from Corinth and traveled to Jerusalem, arriving there in the late spring of AD 58 (Acts 20:1-6, 16).

A little more than a week after Paul arrived in Jerusalem, he was assaulted and dragged out of the Temple by a mob intent on beating him to death. He was rescued by Roman soldiers, and when they learned Paul was a Roman citizen, they kept him in protective custody so he would not be killed by certain Jews intent on murdering him (21:26-32; 22:25-29; 23:11-22).

To keep Paul safe from those who sought to murder him, the captain of the Roman fortress in Jerusalem sent Paul to the Roman governor Felix at Caesarea, on the Mediterranean seacoast 50 miles from Jerusalem (23:23-35).

Paul remained in the protective custody of the Roman government a little more than two years at Caesarea (24:22-27). Then, after the new governor Festus had arrived in Caesarea, to avoid the possibility of being murdered at Jerusalem, Paul appealed his case to Caesar (25:9-12).

After this, Paul was sent by ship to Rome (fall-winter AD 60-61) to appear before Nero Caesar, with no charges against him by the Roman authorities (26:30-32; 27:1-2). After a shipwreck and three months on the island of Malta, Paul traveled on to Rome in the spring of AD 61 (28:11-16). Still in the protective custody of the Roman government, Paul lived in his own rented house in Rome for two years (AD 61-63), freely ministering to all who came to him (28:30-31). Then Paul was released and resumed his traveling ministry in Crete, Asai Minor, Macedonia, and Greece (1 Timothy 1:3; Titus 1:5; 3:12).

WORKSHEET

The Plans of God

1. **When you were a child, how would you answer the question, "What do you want to be when you grow up?"**

2. **Did you ever ask God, "What do You want me to be when I grow up? If so, what did you hear?**

3. **Why should we regularly ask God what He want us to be and do?**

4. **What is the Lord's message about clay and the potter in Romans 9:19-21?**

5. **What message does Isaiah 29:16 say about clay and the potter?**

6. **How are you allowing God to mold and shape your life?**