

Only God's Way

Romans 11:7-12

Romans 11:7-12 (NKJV) 7 What then? Israel has not obtained what it seeks; but the elect have obtained it, and the rest were blinded. 8 Just as it is written: "God has given them a spirit of stupor, Eyes that they should not see And ears that they should not hear, To this very day." 9 And David says: "Let their table become a snare and a trap, A stumbling block and a recompense to them. 10 Let their eyes be darkened, so that they do not see, And bow down their back always." 11 I say then, have they stumbled that they should fall? Certainly not! But through their fall, to provoke them to jealousy, salvation has come to the Gentiles. 12 Now if their fall is riches for the world, and their failure riches for the Gentiles, how much more their fullness!

In the fulness of time God sent His Son into the world to be the Savior of the world. He came to His own people and although some received Him the greater part did not.

Instead of accepting God's love gift they nailed Him to a tree and took the kingdom for their own.

They maligned His followers putting many of them to death. They violently rejected the gospel everywhere it was preached.

It seemed that the purpose of God was being overcome and hindered on every hand.

God had dispersed the Jews throughout the world as a witness for Himself but they had rejected Him in the very essence of their worship.

John 7:46 The officers answered, "No man ever spoke like this Man!" 47 Then the Pharisees answered them, "Are you also deceived? 48 "Have any of the rulers or the Pharisees believed in Him? 49 "But this crowd that does not know the law is accursed."

It seemed as though God was losing and the whole Jewish people would turn away from Jesus.

But as in Elijah's day so in Paul's day there was a remnant according to the election of grace.

So here Paul gives us the explanation of what he is saying and later he will tell us the why.

- I. Israel has not obtained what it seeks
 - A. Israel with all of these ceremonies and sacrifices and feasts and laws had not obtained righteousness before God.
 - B. They did not understand that all those things were not a means of righteousness but to show the people that it was not possible to obtain acceptance with God through works.
- II. But the elect have obtained it.
 - A. The chosen few, the remnant.
 1. No nation or people will ever in mass come to God.

2. Not even His chosen people.
3. As he later says in quoting Deuteronomy.
 - a. Deuteronomy 29:4 “Yet the LORD has not given you a heart to perceive and eyes to see and ears to hear, to this very day.
4. Before Paul has already told us the reason for this.
 - a. Romans 10:3 For they being ignorant of God’s righteousness, and seeking to establish their own righteousness, have not submitted to the righteousness of God.
 - b. Romans 9:31 but Israel, pursuing the law of righteousness, has not attained to the law of righteousness. 32 Why? Because they did not seek it by faith, but as it were, by the works of the law. For they stumbled at that stumbling stone.

B. Who are the elect?

1. Paul explains in Ephesians 1: 3 Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places in Christ, 4 just as He chose us in Him before the foundation of the world, that we should be holy and without blame before Him in love, 5 having predestined us to adoption as sons by Jesus Christ to Himself, according to the good pleasure of His will, 6 to the praise of the glory of His grace, by which He has made us accepted in the Beloved. 7 In Him we have redemption through His blood, the forgiveness of sins, according to the riches of His grace 8 which He made to abound toward us in all wisdom and prudence, 9 having made known to us the mystery of His will, according to His good pleasure which He purposed in Himself, 10 that in the dispensation of the fullness of the times He might gather together in one all things in Christ, both which are in heaven and which are on earth — in Him. 11 In Him also we have obtained an inheritance, being predestined according to the purpose of Him who works all things according to the counsel of His will, 12 that we who first trusted in Christ should be to the praise of His glory. 13 In Him you also trusted, after you heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation; in whom also, having believed, you were sealed with the Holy Spirit of promise, 14 who is the guarantee of our inheritance until the redemption of the purchased possession, to the praise of His glory.
2. Take you Bible and underline all the things that God has done.
3. This is the remnant we spoke of last week that Paul said God had reserved to Himself.
4. Left to our own ends we all go astray, we turn everyone to our own way,

we are dead in trespasses and sins.

5. Romans 3:9 What then? Are we better than they? Not at all. For we have previously charged both Jews and Greeks that they are all under sin.

C. Jesus referred to them as His sheep.

1. John 10: 25 Jesus answered them, "I told you, and you do not believe. The works that I do in My Father's name, they bear witness of Me. 26 "But you do not believe, because you are not of My sheep, as I said to you. 27 "My sheep hear My voice, and I know them, and they follow Me. 28 "And I give them eternal life, and they shall never perish; neither shall anyone snatch them out of My hand. 29 "My Father, who has given them to Me, is greater than all; and no one is able to snatch them out of My Father's hand. 30 "I and My Father are one."

III. The rest were blinded.

A. William Barclay says

1. In verse 7 the Authorised Version says, " they have been blinded." More correctly, it should be, " they have been hardened." The verb is the verb *poroun*. The noun *porosis* will give us the meaning better. It is a medical word, and it means a callus. It was specially used for the callus which forms round the fracture when a bone is broken, the hard bone formation which helps to mend the break. A callus has grown over the hearts of the people. When a callus grows on any part of the body that part loses feeling. It becomes insensitive. The minds of the mass of the people have become insensitive; they can no longer hear and feel the appeal of God. It can happen to any man. If a man takes his own way long enough, he will in the end become insensitive to the appeal of God. If he lives selfishly long enough, he will become insensitive to the appeal of the fine things. If he goes on sinning, he will in the end become insensitive to the horror of sin and the fascination of goodness. If a man lives long enough in ugly conditions he will in the end become insensitive to them.

B. Isaiah 29:10 (NKJV) 10 For the LORD has poured out on you The spirit of deep sleep, And has closed your eyes, namely, the prophets; And He has covered your heads, namely, the seers.

C. Isaiah 29:13 (NKJV) 13 Therefore the LORD said: "Inasmuch as these people draw near with their mouths And honor Me with their lips, But have removed their hearts far from Me, And their fear toward Me is taught by the commandment of men,

D. Isaiah 6:9–10 (NKJV) 9 And He said, "Go, and tell this people: 'Keep on hearing, but do not understand; Keep on seeing, but do not perceive.' 10 "Make the heart of this people dull, And their ears heavy, And shut their eyes; Lest they see with

their eyes, And hear with their ears, And understand with their heart, And return and be healed.”

- E. John 5:40 (NKJV) 40 But you are not willing to come to Me that you may have life.
- F. David says. Psalm 69:22-23 (NKJV) 22 Let their table become a snare before them, And their well-being a trap. 23 Let their eyes be darkened, so that they do not see; And make their loins shake continually.
1. Do you realize what God is saying? He is saying that the things that were meant to be blessings to us have become a curse.
 2. Malachi 2:1-2 (NKJV) 1 "And now, O priests, this commandment is for you. 2 If you will not hear, And if you will not take it to heart, To give glory to My name," Says the LORD of hosts, "I will send a curse upon you, And I will curse your blessings. Yes, I have cursed them already, Because you do not take it to heart.
 3. If individual Jews, who were a chosen nation, missed salvation because of their rejection of Christ and if, as a result, the blessings of God that had been given to them became a curse for these people, it is entirely possible (indeed probable) that many sitting in the evangelical churches of America today are also missing salvation because of their failure to trust Jesus in a personal way and that their blessings have become curses, too. *James Montgomery Boice, Romans: God and History, vol. 3 (Grand Rapids, MI: Baker Book House, 1991–), 1316–1317.*
 4. Jame Montgomery Boice gives us a sobering assesment.
 - a. The Lord’s Day. My fourth example is particularly timely. A short while ago the United States observed the fiftieth anniversary of the bombing of Pearl Harbor by the Japanese, which brought America into World War II and altered the course of history. It was a terrible disaster for this country, for it crippled the Pacific Fleet and claimed 2,403 young lives.

The bombing took place on Sunday morning, December 7, 1941. What is not so well known is that after the defeat of Japan in 1945, General Douglas MacArthur took control of the archives of the Japanese war department and set translators to work on the enemy’s papers. They discovered that in the years prior to the war, the Japanese had sent professors to the United States to study America’s national character to determine at what point and in what manner we would be most vulnerable to attack. Their combined reports judged that our guard would be lowest on a Sunday morning following a Friday on which both the Army and

the Navy had a payday.

That is precisely what December 7, 1941 was. In earlier years, Sundays were sacred days of rest and worship for the majority of Americans, and even those who were not Christians respected them. But that had changed by the winter of 1941. Our day of national blessing had become a national hangover, and God turned this former blessing into a curse. That weekend at Pearl Harbor was a debauch of vast proportions, and we were unprepared and unable to meet the Japanese attack when it came.

Yet I must say, as terrible as the destruction at Pearl Harbor was, it was only physical and temporal—it is now long past—and it does not begin to compare with the spiritual condemnation of even a single eternal human soul. *James Montgomery Boice, Romans: God and History, vol. 3 (Grand Rapids, MI: Baker Book House, 1991–), 1317–1318.*

- IV. We have a responsibility to repent and turn to the Lord.
- A. Deuteronomy 4:29 “But from there you will seek the LORD your God, and you will find Him if you seek Him with all your heart and with all your soul.
 - B. 1Chronicles 28:9 “As for you, my son Solomon, know the God of your father, and serve Him with a loyal heart and with a willing mind; for the LORD searches all hearts and understands all the intent of the thoughts. If you seek Him, He will be found by you; but if you forsake Him, He will cast you off forever.
 - C. How do we know that we are not hardened. By trying our hearts. Are they tender, and responsive to God’s word and His Spirit leading us?
 - D. Proverbs 29:1 He who is often rebuked, and hardens his neck, Will suddenly be destroyed, and that without remedy.