



Going Deeper

R o m a n s 11:1 – 10

Big idea

God has not rejected Israel. He faithfully preserves a remnant by grace, while persistent unbelief results in judicial blindness. Salvation has always depended on grace, never pedigree.

Sermon recap

God Has Not Rejected His People (Verses 1–2)

Paul opens with the strongest possible denial: “By no means!” God has not cast off Israel. Paul himself is evidence of God’s faithfulness. Israel’s unbelief didn’t mean God had abandoned His people.

God Preserves a Remnant (Verses 3–4)

Paul points to Elijah’s despair in 1 Kings 19. Though Elijah believed he was alone, God revealed that He had preserved a faithful remnant. God’s work was happening even when it was unseen. The remnant existed because God kept them.

A Remnant Chosen by Grace (Verses 5–6)

Even after Israel rejected Jesus, Paul says there was still a remnant at the present time. Their salvation was not earned through obedience or ancestry, but given entirely by grace.

Seeking Righteousness the Wrong Way (Verse 7)

Israel sought righteousness but failed to obtain it because they pursued it by works rather than faith. The elect obtained righteousness by grace, while the rest were hardened.

Judicial Blindness Foretold in Scripture (Verse 8)

Paul quotes Deuteronomy and the Psalms to show that Israel’s blindness was not unexpected. God gave them a spirit of stupor as judgment in response to persistent rejection of truth.

When Privilege Becomes a Trap (Verses 9–10)

Israel’s greatest privileges became snares. What should have led them to Christ instead kept them from Him. Religious privilege without faith turned into judgment.

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How to go deeper this week

Day 1 — God Is Still at Work

Read: Romans 11:1–2; 1 Kings 19:9–18

Reflect: Where have you been tempted to believe God isn't working because you can't see results? How does Elijah's experience correct that assumption?

Pray: Ask God to help you trust His unseen work.

Day 2 — Grace, Not Pedigree

Read: Romans 11:5–6; Ephesians 2:8–9

Reflect: What spiritual background, habits, or experiences could tempt you to rely on something other than grace?

Pray: Thank God that your salvation rests entirely on His grace, not your effort.

Day 3 — What Are You Seeking?

Read: Romans 11:7; Romans 9:30–32

Reflect: What does it look like today to pursue God in the wrong way?

Practice: Honestly examine whether your confidence is in Christ or in religious performance.

Day 4 — The Danger of Persistent Rejection

Read: Romans 11:7–8; Hebrews 3:12–15

Reflect: Why does Scripture warn so strongly about hardened hearts? How does repeated resistance to truth affect spiritual sensitivity?

Pray: Ask God to keep your heart soft and responsive to His Word.

Day 5 — When Blessings Become Barriers

Read: Romans 11:9–10; Matthew 21:42–44

Reflect: How can religious familiarity or spiritual privilege become a stumbling block?

Practice: Thank God for your blessings and intentionally surrender them back to Him.

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Practical applications


- **Trust God's unseen work** – Lack of visible results does not mean God is absent.
- **Reject spiritual entitlement** – Belonging to God's people has always been by grace, never pedigree.
- **Guard your heart** – Persistent rejection of truth eventually leads to spiritual blindness.
- **Use blessings wisely** – Privilege should produce gratitude and humility, not complacency.

Reflection and discussion

1. Why is Paul's strong denial in verse 1 essential to understanding God's faithfulness?
2. What comfort and correction do we learn from Elijah's discouragement?
3. How does grace eliminate all grounds for boasting?
4. What warning do verses 7-10 give to religious but unbelieving people today?
5. How can we prevent God's blessings from becoming spiritual traps?

Scripture for further study

- Romans 9:6-8 — True Israel and God's promise
- 1 Kings 19:9-18 — God's preserved remnant
- Ephesians 2:1-10 — Salvation by grace
- Hebrews 3:7-15 — Warning against hardened hearts
- Matthew 21:33-46 — Rejected stone and judgment

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