

## Study 6 Romans 9:30-11:32 The Remnant of Israel

In Study 5 we looked at the biblical doctrine of election, of God choosing some, but not others. The apostle Paul now focuses his attention on the Jewish people. Many Jews throughout history have rejected the gospel, but a remnant of Israel believed and in the future there will also be those Jews who believe.

Read Romans 9:30-10:4

1. Who is the stumbling stone described in Romans 9:32-33? How does this “stone” cause people to stumble?

Read Romans 10:9-17

For many Romans 10:9-10 is a familiar Christian confession. In the first-century Christians often publically confessed that “Jesus is Lord” at their baptism.

- 2.a. What do you think is the significance in the Christian faith of confessing with our mouth as well as believing in your heart?
- 2.b. Why do you think it can be important to publically confess what is in our heart when it comes to belief in God?

Some Christians attribute Saint Francis of Assisi with saying, “Preach the Gospel at all times and if necessary use words.” We do not know if Saint Francis actually said these words, but he did stress the importance of Christian action. Sharing the Good News requires both word and deed. People will not believe your words if your actions say something different. And good deeds alone, without an explanation of the gospel, are not enough for people to understand the gospel of grace.

Read Romans 11:1-6, 11-12, 17-23, 25-32

3. Throughout the Old Testament the people of Israel are referred to as God’s chosen people. What does it mean that the Jewish people are God’s chosen people?
4. What do the words in Romans 11:5-6 “a remnant chosen by grace” mean in light of Romans 1:17 and Romans 10:9?
5. What is “this mystery” Paul refers to in 11:25? It will be important you look at the context of the verse (the paragraphs before and after) to understand what this mystery refers to.
6. The NIV Translation titles Romans 11:25-32 as “All Israel Will Be Saved”. This title comes from the words in verse 11:26. In light of all that we have read in Romans and elsewhere about how a person receives salvation, what does this mean?

As a Life Group close by reading aloud the doxology found in Romans 11:33-36.

Notes:

Question 3. God chose Israel as a nation, descendant from Abraham, a people through whom He revealed Himself to the world (Genesis 12:1-3). But being chosen as a nation is not the same as being chosen for salvation. As we have already read in Romans, salvation is by grace through faith, faith in who Jesus is and what He has done by dying on the cross and rising from the dead. It is important to distinguish between a people chosen as a nation and those chosen for salvation. Israel was chosen by God as a nation, but only some chose to trust God and have been chosen for salvation as 11:1-6 points out.

Question 5: Romans was written to the Church in Rome. This church had both Jewish and Gentile background people. That God's salvation would be freely given to both Jew and Gentile was something unthinkable before the coming of Christ. In the past Gentiles were not excluded from salvation, but they had to become Jewish in order to be considered part of God's people. Gentile men had to be circumcised. Gentiles had to abstain from certain foods and follow all of the Jewish religious customs. But, in Jesus, both Jew and Gentile are now accepted into God's kingdom based on faith and faith alone. Gentile believers are now grafted into the same tree as those Jews who trust God. Jewish unbelievers are cut off from the tree. Saved by God's grace through faith in Jesus Christ, Jew and Gentile together now can be one because of Jesus Christ. This mystery, hidden in the past, is now revealed.

Question 6: Romans 11:25 and following has created a great deal of confusion amongst many Christians. What does it mean "all Israel will be saved"? The NIV Study Bible notes the following main interpretations of this phrase:

1. The total number of elect Jews of every generation will be saved
2. The total number of the elect, both Jews and Gentiles, of every generation. In other words the word "Israel" refers to all of God's people, Jewish and Gentile, who will be saved.
3. The great majority of Jews of the final generation (at the time of Christ's return) will be saved.

The salvation of Jews will be on the same basis as anyone' else's salvation: personal faith in Jesus Christ, crucified and raised from the dead.