

Word notes Sunday 1/6/08 John Hummerson
Romans 9-11: God's Faithfulness to Israel

Summary

Chapters 9-11 seem to be something of an aside. The question Paul addresses is: Does the Gospel, proclaiming salvation for Gentiles as well as Jews, mean that God has broken His promises to His earthly people, the Jews? There are three parts to the answer:

1, Israel's rejection by God was justified (the Sovereignty of God) (9:1-29)

- No man can question God's actions (9:19-21)
- Rejected after patient long suffering (9:22-24)
- Salvation of the Gentiles (9:25-26)
- Rejection of all but a remnant (9:27-29)

2, Israel's rejection is due to unbelief (9:30 – 10:21)

- Trying to obtain righteousness by keeping the law (9:30-33)
- Refused salvation through faith (10:1-4)
- Israel should have known from the OT
 - that righteousness is by faith, not by law (10:5-11)
 - that righteousness by faith is for Jew and Gentile (all) (10:12-21)

3, Israel's rejection is neither complete nor final (the merciful purposes of God) (11)

- God did not reject the entire nation. Paul is proof of that (11:1).
- A remnant remains, preserved by grace (11:2-5)
- Punishment for hardened hearts (predicted by Isaiah) (11:7-10)
- But not cut off forever (11:11-16)
- Gentiles should be aware of the same peril! (11:17-25)
- Israel will yet be restored (11:26-32)

Conclusion: God's ways are perfect (11:33-36)

Application:

How much proof do I need?

What is your testimony of God working in your life now (rather than your history of salvation)? Don't be shy to share small things – Father is interested in whether you asked and received: your lost keys, a word for someone or miraculous healing. Ask each to share how their relationship with Jesus has been alive this past week.

Building on from there - do we apply our faith as widely as we should, or are there things in our lives that drag us down but we are still angry with God and not yet moved on to asking Him for help? Ask if anyone present has something they need to share and receive ministry for.

Witness

Following on from the Application section ask yourselves: is it just Christians that experience illness, setbacks, circumstances, disappointment, poor parenting, or any other aspect of the human condition that can lead to hurt?

Assuming you agree this is not the case, discuss what we see when we look at non-Christians? Do they seem 'fine', uninterested in God, is anyone uneasy around non-Christians, are they lost but don't know it, do they need our pity, our help, our love? How does Jesus see them – back p your answers with scripture.

Pray – ask God to allow us to see non-believers as Jesus does.