

May Jesus Christ be Praised - Part 4

THE PROMISE OF PRAISE Romans 11:25-36

STIMULATE

** What was the significant role which Israel played in our personal salvation?

Because of their unbelief, the gospel came to the Gentile world! cf. Romans 11:11

** Understanding our great "**Privilege**" to be included among those who "Praise" the Lord Jesus Christ for their salvation, how has the continuity of your faith grown this past week?

Remember that Jesus said in the gospel of John, chapter 8 and verse 31, "If you abide in My word, then you are truly disciples of Mine; and you shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free". We need to continue to fight the battle of **Staying in the Word** and out of the world!

MOTIVATE

** Up until now we have seen the "**Profession of Praise**", which is our own confession that Jesus is Lord and that God raised Him from the dead; the "**Proclamation of Praise**", which was our duty to spread the good news to the world; and the "**Privilege of Praise**", which was our joy to receive the gospel, made available to us by Israel's national rejection of their Messiah. Today, we are going to learn "**The Promise of Praise**". What promise does God's word make, which is the very foundation of our praise to Him?

Please open your Bibles to Romans 11:25-36 and we will learn it together.

Read Passage (V. 25-27) (V. 28-32) (V. 33-36)

Opening Prayer

The Promise of Praise

INVESTIGATE

V.25 ** Do you recall the warnings that Paul had given to the Gentiles, in the previous passage from last week's study?

V.18 "...do not be arrogant toward the branches..."

V.20 "Do not be conceited, but fear..."

V.21 "...for if God did not spare the natural branches[who did not believe], neither will He spare you [if you do not truly believe]."

** What does Paul do now to further help the Gentiles to understand God's dealing with Israel?

He explains the "mystery" of the timing of Israel's national salvation.

** What does Paul mean by "mystery"?

Whenever you see this term, it is referring to some knowledge that had been hidden in the Old Testament times, but is now revealed in the New Testament.

cf. Romans 16:25-26, Ephesians 3:4-7 and Colossians 1:25-27

** If the Gentiles failed to understand the mystery of Israel's national salvation, what additional error could they make?

They could become "wise in [their] own estimation" and thus "fall into the condemnation incurred by the devil" [borrowing from 1 Timothy 3:6]. All see - Isaiah 14:12-14, Proverbs 16:18-20

** Back in Romans 11:25, what is the first part of the "mystery"?

"...a partial hardening has happened to Israel..."

** Does that mean that some Israelites had been partially hardened against God?

No! Those who had been hardened were totally set against God for their unbelief, but not all were hardened. Remember, God had kept for Himself a remnant who would believe in the Messiah and thus only part of Israel had been hardened. (cf. V.5)

** For the second part of the mystery, how long will this hardening of Israel last?

"...until the fulness of the Gentiles has come in"

The phrase "has come in" is translated from the Greek word "eiserchomai" and was used by Jesus and the apostle Paul to describe receiving salvation.

cf. Matthew 5:20, John 3:5, Acts 14:22

V.26 ** Once the Lord has saved every Gentile that was chosen from before the foundation of the earth, the "time of the Gentiles" will have been completed or fulfilled. The church will be raptured and Israel will open her heart to the Messiah. How many Israelites will be saved?

"...and thus all Israel will be saved..."

** Says who?

Scripture! Paul borrows from Isaiah 59:20, where the prophet spoke the promise of God to save all of Israel.

** How will the "Deliverer" accomplish that?

"He will remove ungodliness from Jacob"

David knew that to be true! cf. Psalm 103:12-14

V.27 ** What will be the manifestation of God's covenant with His people Israel?

"When I take away their sins." God is going to take away their sin, based upon His word!

V.28 ** This is an amazing act of God's grace upon a people that He had called disobedient and obstinate. What two perspectives help us understand the grandeur of God's love?

1) In order for salvation to come to the Gentiles, Israel had become the enemy of God!

2) God's love and choosing of Israel never wavered during their time of rebellion. (Centuries!)

V.29 ** How is that possible, why didn't God change His mind?

What promise does Paul give us, that proves to be the very foundation for our praise of Jesus Christ?

"...for the gifts and the calling of God are irrevocable..." All see - 1Corinthians 1:9,
1Thessalonians 5:24, Hebrews 10:23, 11:11

** When God calls you into His family, can anything undo or reverse the effect of that call?

Absolutely not! cf. Romans 8:28-30, Philippians 1:6

V.30 ** What kind of people were we once, prior to knowing Jesus Christ as our Lord and Savior?

We too were "disobedient to God". Remember how Paul described us earlier in this same letter? "But God demonstrates His own love toward us, in that while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us". (Romans 5:8)

** In the infinite mind of God, why were we shown mercy?

Because of Israel's disobedience!

V.31 ** What characteristic of God did that manifest?

The fact that God shows mercy!

** If God was willing to show mercy to the Gentiles, did that exhaust His mercy?

God forbid! The disobedience of Israel was shown the same mercy of God as was our disobedience. Paul knew all too well that our God was a god of mercy. All see 2Corinthians 1:3 and 1Timothy 1:12-15

** Did you notice the timing of this mercy being given to all men who will repent?

"...because of the mercy shown to you [Gentiles] they also may now be shown mercy..." During the time of the gospel, going to all the world, mankind can receive the mercy of God!

V.32 ** So how much alike are we. What common factor does God see in all of our lives?

"For God has shut up all in disobedience..." cf. Romans 3:9, Galatians 3:22

** What common response to sin is God willing to offer anyone who will put their faith in Jesus Christ?

"...that He might show mercy to all".

** How would you describe the source for salvation to someone, is it based upon merit or mercy?

We all are clearly dependant upon the mercy of God, having no merit within ourselves.
cf. Psalm 14:1-3, Psalm 130:1-4 and Psalm 143:1-2

V.33 ** The loving mercy of God moves Paul to praise Him for what two attributes?

1) Wisdom - [sophia] lit. skill, wisdom

2) Knowledge - [gnosis] lit. a knowing

As Paul tries to describe the indescribable, he is at a loss for words. The best he can come up with is "Oh, the depth of the riches..." It goes off of the scale in human thinking or ability to appraise.

** What reality grips Paul as he realizes how inadequate we are to understand the majesty of God?

God's judgments are unsearchable cf. Job 5:8-9

God's ways are unfathomable cf. Psalm 77:19

We are not able to understand all that God is or what He does, that understanding belongs only to His Spirit. cf. 1Corinthians 2:10-11

V.34 ** Paul continues his line of rhetorical questions to establish how unlike us God is. How is God's mind different than ours?

No one knows it! Unlike us, who are easily figured out, God stands alone in His Omniscience. Therefore, He has no need of someone to counsel Him or to give Him direction.

V.35 ** What other difference does Paul's next question point out, rhetorically?

God has no need for anyone to give Him anything! We on the other hand are totally dependant upon our creator for all things pertaining to life: food, water, air, shelter, etc.

V.36 ** In the closing crescendo of Paul's doxology, the genius of the Holy Spirit becomes evident as Paul records the source, the means, and the goal of creation in an economy of words that could only be accomplished by the inspiration of the Spirit of God!

Who is the source of all creation?

"For from Him..." cf. James 1:17

Who is the means of all creation?

"...and through Him..." cf. Colossians 1:16

Who is the goal of creation?

"...and to Him..." cf. Psalm 97:1-6 (Note: In chapter one of Genesis God declares seven times that His creation is good.)

** To what conclusion does all of this bring the apostle Paul?

"To Him be the glory forever. Amen." God alone deserves our praise and His Name is to be glorified in our lives!

EXTRICATE

** What was the mystery, hidden from the Old Testament saints, that we learned today?

That God was causing a partial hardening upon the hearts of the nation of Israel, until the times of the Gentiles would be fulfilled.

** What was the wonderful promise put forth by Paul in verse 29 of our passage, upon which we can base our praise to Jesus Christ?

"...for the gifts and the calling of God are irrevocable." God is faithful!

DELINEATE

** For all who are saved, what have we received from God to ensure our salvation so that we do not have to rely on our merit according to verse 30 ?

The mercy of God!

EVALUATE

** Does your heart burst with love and appreciation for God who has done so much for you? Not only in your salvation, but by making you part of His family He enables you to live for His glory by living a life which continually proclaims, "**MAY JESUS CHRIST BE PRAISED**"!

ACTIVATE

** Please go before the Lord in prayer now and let Him know of your desire to show others the joy of your salvation, so that they may ask you of the hope that is within you! To God be the glory forever. Amen.

Closing Prayer