**Lesson 29: God is Still Willing to Save!**

Text: Romans 11:1-15

**Introduction**

The majority of Jews remain in a state of condemnation before God because they continue to reject Jesus as their Messiah (Romans 10:21). Their willful unbelief naturally leaves you wondering if there any hope of their salvation. Has God ceased working with them? Paul presents this question in Romans 11: “Hath God cast away His people?” (v. 1). He immediately answers his own question, “God forbid.” In this chapter, Paul provides evidence that God has not cast away His people. Despite their rejection, God faithfully works to introduce them to their Savior. What a patient and longsuffering God! We can likewise praise the Lord that God is still willing to save!

1. **The first evidence that God is still willing to save is the remnant of Jewish believers. (v. 1-6)**
   1. As a saved Israelite, Paul was living proof that God has not cast away His people. (v. 1) He represents what God desires to do regarding all Jews.
   2. In His perfect foreknowledge, God chose to bring the Messiah into the world through the Jewish people. He has not cast them away or pushed them aside. (v. 2a)
      1. In this chapter, Paul is focused on the people as a whole rather than individuals.
      2. His promises to the people of Israel does not mean that every individual in Israel will be saved and enjoy His blessings. Obviously, there are Jews who have died without Christ.
      3. Praise the Lord for those who, like Paul, have received their Messiah! Paul presents this group as a *remnant*. Low and Nida define *remnant* as, “a relatively small part which continues to exist.”
      4. This does not mean that God forced belief upon them. It simply indicates that they heard the message of justification by faith and responded appropriately.
   3. Paul presented Elijah’s example as evidence that God has a remnant. (v. 2b-4)
      1. Elijah thought he was the only one taking a stand for the LORD in his day. (v. 3)
      2. God informed Elijah that a remnant of 7,000 remained faithful! (v. 4)
   4. There are other biblical examples of the remnant such as Noah, Daniel, Ezekiel, Mordecai, Esther, John the Baptist, Simeon and Anna. Hebrews 11 represents the remnant of faith.
   5. Paul made the connection to the situation of their day. (v. 5) A remnant remained because of the election of grace. God’s choice is not based on man’s performance. He has chosen to save any who come by faith. Those who trust Christ today illustrate that God is still willing to save!
   6. It is impossible that salvation is a combination of grace and works! (v. 6) If it was possible for man to please God by his good works, Jesus’ sacrificial death on the cross was not necessary. Since that is not the case, it is only possible to be accepted by God on the basis of grace through faith.
2. **The second evidence that God is still willing to save is the conversion of the Gentiles and the effect God intended it to have upon unbelieving Jews. (v. 7-15)** 
   1. The reference to the remnant indicates that there are those of Israel who are not recipients of God’s grace. (v. 7-8)
      1. Israel failed in their attempt to manufacture righteousness (v. 7a).
      2. The elect have obtained righteousness by faith (v. 7b; 9:30).
      3. Those who have persisted in unbelief have been blinded (v. 7c). This coincides with the Old Testament. (v. 8; Deuteronomy 29:4; Isaiah 29:10)
   2. As those at war against God, their purposes have been frustrated. (v. 9-10) Paul used a quote from Psalm 69:22-23 to demonstrate how God has dealt with the Jews who have resisted the gospel.
   3. Nonetheless, they are not beyond the reach of God’s grace! (v. 11)
      1. Their hardened condition is not a permanent condition. God will still save them if they will turn to Him.
      2. They have stumbled (tripped), but they have not fallen (been destroyed, ruined). They are rejecting their Messiah, but they have not come to a complete state of ruin.
      3. A different word for “fall” is used in the latter part of verse 11 to describe their transgression. They have failed to believe and their lack of belief has opened the door of salvation to the Gentiles.
      4. The conversion of the Gentiles should provoke the Jews to jealousy. It should cause them to want what the Gentiles have in Christ Jesus.
      5. If the conversion of the Gentiles was aimed to provoke the Jews to jealousy, it indicates that there is still the opportunity for them to be saved!
   4. If the judgment of the unbelieving Jews results in the spiritual riches of the world, then their restoration will be even more beneficial. (v. 12)
      1. If the Jews’ loss has been the Gentile gain, how much more will their gain produce even greater gain for the Gentiles!
      2. When he refers to their “fullness,” he is speaking in terms of their restoration. What a blessing it will be when the Jews are restored spiritually and numerically!
   5. Even as the apostle sent to the Gentiles, Paul always had a heart for his own countrymen. (v. 13-14) He hoped that the conversion of the Gentiles might prompt the Jews to turn to Christ. Again, this indicates that God is still willing to save.
   6. If their rejection resulted in the reconciliation of the world, receiving them will be life from the dead. (v. 15) There is question regarding the meaning of the phrase, “life from the dead.”
      1. It could be understood as a metaphor for the spiritual restoration of Israel.
      2. It could be a reference to the literal resurrection that will take place upon Christ’s Second Coming. Jews will be saved during the tribulation period. They will go from being a remnant to a large number. It will be a climatic end to salvation history. A great future is ahead for Israel!
3. **Central Idea: Paul proved that God is still willing to save Israel by presenting the evidence of a remnant and God’s continued effort to bring lost Jews to Christ.**
4. **Application: The fact that God is still willing to save is evident in those who have trusted Christ and God’s continued effort to bring the lost to Christ.** 
   1. If you have not been saved, God is willing to save you today! There is no reason to think you are an exception. God is willing to save ANY who will come to Him by faith.
   2. We should not give up on evangelizing the lost, since God is still willing to save. As long as a person is physically alive, they can be saved. Even though your friend or family member has repeatedly rejected Christ, don’t give up on them. Trust the power of the gospel.
   3. Your life ought to provoke others to desire a relationship with Jesus Christ.

**Conclusion**

God continues the work of reconciliation even when man is obstinate. He is still willing to save! We know this is the case with individuals. What about Israel as a whole? Can the nation be saved? Has God given up on the people as a whole? We will take up that question in the coming lesson.