

Prison Ministry 08/12/2018

"The Mercies of God"

Romans 11:1-36

Let's begin by turning to and reading Romans 11:

Rom 11:1 I say then, God has not rejected His people, has He? May it never be! For I too am an Israelite, a descendant of Abraham, of the tribe of Benjamin.

Rom 11:2 God has not rejected His people whom He foreknew (means to know intimately and to set His love upon them before creation). Or do you not know what the Scripture says in the passage about Elijah, how he pleads with God against Israel?

Rom 11:3 "Lord, THEY HAVE KILLED YOUR PROPHETS, THEY HAVE TORN DOWN YOUR ALTARS, AND I ALONE AM LEFT, AND THEY ARE SEEKING MY LIFE." (The Apostle Paul goes back in Israel's history to the time when Ahab was king over Israel. The historical account is found in I Kings 19. Israel killed their own Prophets sent to them by God and tore down all the altars of God. Elijah thought he was the only faithful one left out of all Israel and knew that they were out to kill him.)

Rom 11:4 But what is the divine response to him? "I HAVE KEPT for Myself SEVEN THOUSAND MEN WHO HAVE NOT BOWED THE KNEE TO BAAL."

Rom 11:5 In the same way then, there has also come to be at the present time a remnant according to God's gracious choice.

Rom 11:6 But if it is by grace, it is no longer on the basis of works, otherwise grace is no longer grace.

Rom 11:7 What then? What Israel is seeking, it has not obtained, but those who were chosen obtained it, and the rest were hardened; (Let me emphasize what the Scriptures clearly teach us here, "according to God's gracious choice". And, "but those who were chosen obtained it". Then, "But if it is by grace, it is no longer on the basis of works, otherwise grace is no longer grace". Let's put this together with what Paul said earlier in Chapter 9 because they go together to explain each other, **Rom 9:6-11**, "**But it is not as though the word of God has failed. For they are not all Israel who are descended from Israel; nor are they all children because**

they are Abraham's descendants, but: "THROUGH ISAAC YOUR DESCENDANTS WILL BE NAMED." That is, it is not the children of the flesh who are children of God, but the children of the promise are regarded as descendants. For this is the word of promise: "AT THIS TIME I WILL COME, AND SARAH SHALL HAVE A SON." And not only this, but there was Rebekah also, when she had conceived twins by one man, our father Isaac; for though the twins were not yet born and had not done anything good or bad, so that God's purpose according to His choice would stand, not because of works but because of Him who calls, ...". (Question: Did Isaac make this choice to be a child of promise? Also, did Jacob make this choice to be a child of promise? Or, did Esau choose not to be chosen? If none of them had been conceived in their mother's wombs when this was spoken by God, then who made the choice for Isaac and Jacob to be children of promise and Esau not to be? Isaac, Jacob and Esau had nothing to do with who God chose to be His children. They had not yet come into existence when God made His choice. Abraham and Jacob had yet to be told by God who was chosen and not chosen to be the children of promise, that is the children of God. This choice was made before the creation of the world by God the Father. That is why Paul writes further and says, Rom 9:15-18, "For He says to Moses, "I WILL HAVE MERCY ON WHOM I HAVE MERCY, AND I WILL HAVE COMPASSION ON WHOM I HAVE COMPASSION." So then it does not depend on the man who wills or the man who runs, but on God who has mercy. For the Scripture says to Pharaoh, "FOR THIS VERY PURPOSE I RAISED YOU UP, TO DEMONSTRATE MY POWER IN YOU, AND THAT MY NAME MIGHT BE PROCLAIMED THROUGHOUT THE WHOLE EARTH." So then He has mercy on whom He desires, and He hardens whom He desires." It's His choice, not ours (John 3:4-8). That is also why the Apostle Paul wrote to those who were "faithful in Christ Jesus" in Eph 1:4-6, "... just as He chose us in Him before the foundation of the world, that we would be holy and blameless before Him. In love He predestined us to adoption as sons through Jesus Christ to Himself, according to the kind intention of His will, to the praise of the glory of His grace, which He freely bestowed on us in the Beloved." God made the

choice before the foundation of the world who would be His children - "children of promise". Paul wanted them to know that it was God the Father Who chose them by His mercy and grace and not them who chose Him of their own doing. It was before creation this choice was made. ("it does not depend on the man who wills"). That's why Paul also wrote to the believers in church at Galatia, Gal 4:28-31, "And you brethren, like Isaac, are children of promise. But as at that time he who was born according to the flesh (Ishmael) persecuted him who was born according to the Spirit (Isaac), so it is now also. But what does the Scripture say? "CAST OUT THE BONDWOMAN (Hagar) AND HER SON (Ishmael), FOR THE SON OF THE BONDWOMAN SHALL NOT BE AN HEIR WITH THE SON OF THE FREE WOMAN." So then, brethren, we are not children of a bondwoman, but of the free woman." That is why Paul says here in Rom 11:7, "What then? What Israel is seeking, it has not obtained, but those who were chosen (before the foundation of the world) obtained it, and the rest were hardened; ... ". Then Paul continues:

Rom 11:8 just as it is written, "GOD GAVE THEM A SPIRIT OF STUPOR, EYES TO SEE NOT AND EARS TO HEAR NOT, DOWN TO THIS VERY DAY."

Rom 11:9 And David says, "LET THEIR TABLE BECOME A SNARE AND A TRAP, AND A STUMBLING BLOCK AND A RETRIBUTION TO THEM.

Rom 11:10 "LET THEIR EYES BE DARKENED TO SEE NOT, AND BEND THEIR BACKS FOREVER."

Rom 11:11 I say then, they did not stumble so as to fall, did they? May it never be! But by their transgression salvation has come to the Gentiles, to make them jealous. (Remember what Paul said in Rom 10:19-21, "But I say, surely Israel did not know, did they? First Moses says, 'I WILL MAKE YOU JEALOUS BY THAT WHICH IS NOT A NATION (Elect Gentiles from all over the world), BY A NATION WITHOUT UNDERSTANDING WILL I ANGER YOU. And Isaiah is very bold and says, "I WAS FOUND BY THOSE WHO DID NOT SEEK ME, I BECAME MANIFEST TO THOSE WHO DID NOT ASK FOR ME (Gentiles)." But as for Israel He says, "ALL THE DAY LONG I HAVE STRETCHED OUT MY HANDS TO A DISOBEDIENT AND OBSTINATE PEOPLE.") Paul continues:

Rom 11:12 Now if their transgression is riches for the world and their failure is riches for the Gentiles, how much more will their fulfillment be!

Rom 11:13 But I am speaking to you who are Gentiles. Inasmuch then as I am an apostle of Gentiles, I magnify my ministry,

Rom 11:14 if somehow **I might move to jealousy my fellow countrymen and save some of them (Remnant)**. (Again, remember what Paul said earlier, Rom 11:5, "In the same way then, there has also come to be at the present time a remnant according to God's gracious choice". (Paul knew that the whole blood lineage Nation of Israel would not be saved; but that there is still a remnant of the "children of promise" in the physical Nation of Israel just like in the Old Testament days; and they were yet to be saved; and those will be made jealous through the Gentiles being saved and will be drawn by God the Father to His Son Jesus Christ as they hear the Gospel preached. Remember what Jesus our Lord said, John 6:44, "**No one can come to Me unless the Father who sent Me draws him; and I will raise him up on the last day.**" Also, John 6:65, "**... no one can come to Me unless it has been granted him from the Father.**" It's God the Father's choice who He draws to His Son; it is all God's choosing and doing that we are in Christ (I Corinthians 1:22-31, Vs 30) Paul continues:

Rom 11:15 For if their rejection is the reconciliation of the world, what will their acceptance be but life from the dead? (The unbelieving Jews now can be shown Mercy and Grace since the ungodly, unbelieving Gentiles are now, in Paul's time, being given Mercy and Grace.)

Rom 11:16 If the first piece of dough is holy, the lump is also; and if the root is holy, the branches are too.

Rom 11:17 But if some of the branches were broken off, and you, being a wild olive, were grafted in among them and became partaker with them of the rich root of the olive tree,

Rom 11:18 do not be arrogant toward the branches; but if you are arrogant, remember that it is not you who supports the root, but the root supports you. Remember what Paul said, Rom 9:4-6, "... Israelites, to whom belongs the adoption as sons, and the glory and the covenants and the giving of the Law and the temple service and the promises, whose are the fathers, and from whom is the Christ according to the flesh, who is over all, God blessed

forever. Amen." Israel is the root into which the gentiles are grafted into. Paul continues:

Rom 11:19 You will say then, "Branches were broken off so that I might be grafted in."

Rom 11:20 Quite right, they were broken off for their unbelief, but you stand by your faith. Do not be conceited, but fear;

Rom 11:21 for if God did not spare the natural branches, He will not spare you, either.

Rom 11:22 Behold then the kindness and severity of God; to those who fell, severity, but to you, God's kindness, **if you continue in His kindness;** otherwise you also will be cut off. (Remember what Jesus said, Mar 13:13, "**You will be hated by all because of My name, but the one who endures to the end, he will be saved.**" But also, He said, Joh 10:27-30, "**My sheep hear My voice, and I know them, and they follow Me; and I give eternal life** (Not temporary life) **to them, and they will never perish; and no one will snatch them out of My hand. My Father, who has given them to Me, is greater than all; and no one is able to snatch them out of the Father's hand. I and the Father are one.**" If you have been given to Christ by the Father then it must be that He chose you as a "child of promise" and Jesus said, Joh 6:39, "**This is the will of Him who sent Me, that of all that He has given Me I lose nothing, but, raise it up on the last day.**" (Read John 17:9-12). Is Jesus Christ, God made man, the creator of all things **able to keep those He saves by His Mercy and Grace He gives to all the "children of promise" given to Him by the Father who chose them before the creation of all things?**)

Rom 11:23 And they also, if they do not continue in their unbelief, will be grafted in, for God is able to graft them in again.

Rom 11:24 For if you were cut off from what is by nature a wild olive tree, and were grafted contrary to nature into a cultivated olive tree, how much more will these who are the natural branches be grafted into their own olive tree?

Rom 11:25 For I do not want you, brethren, to be uninformed of this mystery--so that you will not be wise in your own estimation--that **a partial hardening has happened to Israel until the fullness of the Gentiles has come in;**

Rom 11:26 and so (greek word means "in this way", "in this manner", "thus" and not "then") all Israel ("children of promise" Jew and Gentile, not blood lineage Nation of Israel. See Romans 9:6-18 above; Romans 2:28-29; Romans 4:7-12; Galatians 3:6-9,26-29) will be saved; just as it is written, "THE DELIVERER WILL COME FROM ZION, HE WILL REMOVE UNGODLINESS FROM JACOB ("Children of promise" - elect among the Nation of Israel)."

Rom 11:27 "THIS IS MY COVENANT (New Covenant in Christ) WITH THEM, WHEN I TAKE AWAY THEIR SINS." (Jesus alone removes our sins through His blood shed on the cross. No other way can sins be forgiven or taken away. Faith in Christ alone, read Romans 3:21-23. He's speaking of the New Covenant here applied to the "children of promise" remnant in the Nation of Israel being saved and to be saved.)

Rom 11:28 From the standpoint of the gospel they are enemies for your sake, but from the standpoint of God's choice they are beloved for the sake of the fathers;

Rom 11:29 for the gifts and the calling of God are irrevocable.

Rom 11:30 For just as you once were disobedient to God, but now have been shown mercy because of their disobedience,

Rom 11:31 so these also now have been disobedient, that because of the mercy shown to you they also may now be shown mercy. (I said this at verse 15 in different words: the "unbelieving, disobedient, anti-Jesus Jews" can now be shown Mercy and Grace because the "without God, ungodly, disobedient Gentiles" have now been given Mercy and Grace by God through Christ without even seeking it. Christ died for the ungodly.) Paul continues:

Rom 11:32 For God has shut up all (Jew and Gentile) in disobedience so that He may show mercy to all. Rom 9:15-16 says, "For He says to Moses, "**I WILL HAVE MERCY ON WHOM I HAVE MERCY, AND I WILL HAVE COMPASSION ON WHOM I HAVE COMPASSION.** So then it does not depend on the man who wills or the man who runs, BUT ON GOD WHO HAS MERCY." Then, Rom 9:18 says, "So then He has mercy on whom He desires, and He hardens whom He desires." Let's be clear: God does not have to harden any heart because we are all born with stony hearts like Adam our father which are already hardened towards God. That's why Jesus

said we must be born again to enter heaven. It is the new birth where God takes out our heart of stone and gives us a heart of flesh to love Him with - according to Ezekiel 36:26. Let me ask a few questions but don't answer out loud: Is God unjust or unrighteous if He chooses not to give His mercy and grace to someone - that is, He backs away and allows that person to live the way he/she desires to live their life - according to their own will and purposes? Is God unjust by letting that person live the way they choose to live and not intervene in their life? The Scriptures are clear that GOD IS JUST AND RIGHTEOUS IF HE DOES NOT INTERVENE IN OUR LIVES TO POUR OUT HIS MERCY AND GRACE UPON US, IN US AND THROUGH US; and therefore, allowing us to live the way we desire of our own choosing. He is completely just and righteous even if He does not give His mercy and grace to anyone - leaving all born of Adam to live according to their own desires. And we all would perish if He did so, and justly so from living our own willful sinful desires. The Scriptures are also clear that according to Romans 3, almost echoing Romans 11:32, that there is none righteous and there is NONE WHO SEEKS AFTER GOD, NO NOT ONE; but we all have gone our own way; and we all have sinned; and continue to sin if there is no intervention and mercy from God (Apostle Paul). We will justly reap what we have sown. The wages of sin is death. Unless the Holy Spirit intervene in our lives and God the Father give us mercy and give us grace and most of all give us His presence in us, we will continue to go our own way - NOT SEEKING GOD, not repenting of our sins and loving living according to our own desires without God - or Romans 3:9-18 is wrong and then the Scriptures are wrong and God is unrighteous and unjust telling us we are that way. It is only through God's intervention by His mercy and grace that we can repent and put faith in Christ so that we escape the wrath of God that is justly upon us because of our sinful rebellion against Him and His Son, the Lord Jesus Christ. It's only through God's Mercy and Grace alone that we can be born again and enter the Kingdom of God and become His adopted sons - true children of God; or Romans 3:9-18 is in error and we don't have hearts of stone and therefore can choose Christ ourselves without His help. God must

intervene in our lives to be born again. The Holy Spirit must draw us to Christ, He must reveal Christ to us (Matthew 16:14-17) and He must open our hearts to receive the gospel (Acts 16:14-15). He alone must give us the gifts of repentance and faith; or repentance and faith are not gifts from God but something we can work up of our own doing with our hearts of stone. He must regenerate and renew us for us to be in Christ. He must take out our heart of stone and give us a heart of flesh if we are to Love Christ and become a joyful and willing slave to Christ loving Him with hearts filled with joy for the privilege of serving Him now and for all eternity. If you can repent and choose Christ on your own without the Holy Spirit, then do it now or forever perish in hell and then the Lake of Fire. If you can't change your own heart of stone and turn from sin but you truly believe Christ was sent by God the Father; and is the only one Who can change you and make you a child of God; and you desire that He do so - then cry out to the Lord Jesus Christ to have mercy on you. Ask Christ to intervene in your life with His Mercy and Grace and put His Holy Spirit in you to give you His Life. Acknowledge to Him that you are THE SINNER and will die in sin with a stony heart if He withholds His Mercy and Grace from you. HE WILL RECEIVE YOU IF THAT IS THE TRUE DESIRE OF YOUR HEART, MIND AND SOUL. JESUS SAID, John 6:37, "All that the Father gives Me will come to Me, AND THE ONE WHO COMES TO ME I WILL CERTAINLY NOT CAST OUT." Christ is the living God/Man so that you can cry out to Him from the depths of your heart anywhere and at any time and He will hear you and answer you! Christ came to save sinners and not the righteous. Paul continues:

Rom 11:33-36, "Oh, the depth of the riches both of the wisdom and knowledge of God! How unsearchable are His judgments and unfathomable His ways! For who has known the mind of the Lord, or who became His counselor? or who has first given to Him that it might be paid back to Him again? FOR FROM HIM AND THROUGH HIM AND TO HIM ARE ALL THINGS. TO HIM BE THE GLORY FOREVER. AMEN!!!