

The Letter of St. Paul to the **ROMANS**

IX

OPENING WORSHIP

To begin your Bible study, read together **Psalm 150**. Let everything in all creation praise the LORD!

INTRODUCTION

What is grace? What does it mean that God does everything to save us? It means that there is no collaboration or synergism with God. When we enter heaven we will have eternity to praise God for his immeasurable grace shown in bringing us to eternal life.

In chapter 11 Paul continues to probe the riches of God's grace, as he calls both Jews and Gentiles to be part of his holy family in Christ.

A REMNANT CHOSEN BY GRACE

Read Romans 11:1-10. Paul refers back to Elijah's meeting with the LORD at the cave at Mount Horeb in **1 Kings 19:9-18**. Work with the group at your table and answer the following questions:

- What demonstrations of massive power did the LORD permit Elijah to experience at Horeb?
- Where was the Lord actually *present* in his encounter with Elijah?
- How does this relate to **Romans 10:14-17**?

What is the relationship between salvation by grace and salvation by works (see vs. 5-6)?

Why is Jesus a stumbling block? What is the stupor (v. 8) and blindness (v. 9) that Paul refers to?

WILD SHOOTS GRAFTED IN

Read Romans 11:11-24. What effect did Gentile Christians have on the Jews? Why was this a result?

You've heard the phrase, "One person's loss is another person's gain." How does that relate to Jews and Gentiles?

Explain Paul's words in verses 15 and 16.

What caution does Paul offer to the Gentile Christians? (v. 17-21) Why can we never be arrogant or proud about who we are in Christ?

Grafting is very common in our day. For example, hybrid trees (citrus, etc.) are often grafted into wild root stock. What is the advantage of grafting? How are these advantages illustrated in Paul's examples here?

A MIND-BOGGLING CONCLUSION

Read Romans 11:25-32. What does Paul mean when he says, "All Israel will be saved"? (v. 26) How do many modern evangelical fundamentalists misinterpret this passage?

God's wonderful plan of grace is summarized in verses 28-32. How do these verses reinforce salvation by grace alone?

DOXOLOGY

Read together Romans 11:33-36. Note how this song of praise is a fitting summary to all of Paul's deep musings on God's grace, election, justice mercy. In chapters 9-11 Paul has probed some inscrutable mysteries, and finally he must throw up his hands and give all praise to God.

VERSES TO REMEMBER

Romans 11:33 *Oh, the depth of the riches of the wisdom and knowledge of God! How unsearchable his judgments, and his paths beyond tracing out!*

For next time read Romans 12.