

ROMANS 11

1. Why did Paul have great sorrow?

-Because most of the Israelites had rejected Christ.

2. Why did God choose Israel?

-Because He wanted a people through whom He would send His Word.

-Because He wanted a people through whom He would send the Savior.

-Because He wanted a people which would be the best mirror for all people.

3. When you look into the mirror of Israel, who do you see?

-Yourself.

4. Although most of Israel had rejected Christ as Savior, was God rejecting Israel?

-No.

5. What are the two types of Israel?

-The first Israel is a physical Israel, that is, born into the tribe of Israel.

-The second Israel is a spiritual Israel, that is, born into the family of God.

6. Since most of Israel did not believe that Jesus was the Savior, does this mean that God is unjust?

-No.

7. If salvation is only from God's mercy, then why does God not have mercy on everyone, including all of Israel, so that everyone can be saved?

-The simple answer is that God is sovereign, and He does whatever He desires.

8. Why did Israel not find righteousness?

-Because they looked for righteousness according to their works, and not according to faith.

9. Why do non-Christians reject the righteousness of God?

-Because they do not think it is necessary.

-Because they cannot earn it.

-Because they want to have a part in their own salvation.

10. What is the barrier to faith in Christ?

-Self righteousness.

11. Why did Israel not know the righteousness of God?

-Because they refused to listen to God's prophets.

-Because they had become proud.

-Because they did not understand how holy God is.

-Because they thought that they could please God by their own good works.

-Because they depended on their own ability to obey the law.

12. With regard to lordship, there are only two types of people in the world. Who are they?

- Those who make themselves lord of their own lives.
- Those who make God/Jesus Lord of their lives.
- We have finished studying Romans chapters 9-11 and its theme: “The Righteousness of God Alone is Just.”
- Starting with chapter 12 until the conclusion of Romans, the theme is:
- “The Righteousness of God Working in Us.”

Let’s read Romans 12:1

- 1-Therefore, I urge you, brothers and sisters, in view of God’s mercy, to offer your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and pleasing to God—this is your true and proper worship.
- Because of God’s mercy, what should all Christians do?
- Offer our bodies as a living sacrifice to God.
- Why is it important to offer our bodies as a living sacrifice to God?
- Because our bodies are still the center of sinful desires, emotional depression, and spiritual doubts.
- While our souls have been redeemed by Christ, our bodies have not.

- If you are a Christian, sin can no longer reign in your soul.
- Therefore, sin should also not reign in our bodies.
- To be happy, some Christians pursue spiritual healings or spiritual experiences or spiritual languages, but this is wrong.
- To be happy, some Christians try to get everything from God that they can, but this is also wrong.
- Why is it wrong to try to get everything from God that we can?
- Because God has already given us everything.
- In 2 Peter 1:3, we read this: “His divine power has given us everything we need for a godly life.”
- In Ephesians 1:3, we read this: “[God] has blessed us in the heavenly realms with every spiritual blessing in Christ.”
- If God has already given us everything and we are still not happy, the problem is us.
- If God has already given us everything and we are still not happy, the problem is that we are doing something wrong.

-If Christians want to be happy in life, what do God and Paul tell us that we should do?

-Give all that we have to God.

-Give all that we are to God.

-In 2 Corinthians 5:15, we read this:

-“And [Christ] died for all, that those who live should no longer live for themselves but for him who died for them and was raised again.”

-When we live for ourselves, we will never be happy.

-When we live for ourselves, we will never be satisfied.

-What is the beauty of giving all that we have to God?

-We will gain more than we could ever imagine.

-What is the beauty of giving all that we are to God?

-We will gain more than we could ever imagine.

-How do we offer our bodies as a living sacrifice to God?

Let's read Romans 12:2

2-Do not conform to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind. Then you will be able to test and approve what God's will is—his good, pleasing and perfect will.

-What does Roman 12:2 say that we should not do?

-We should no longer conform to the pattern of this world.

-What does it mean that we should not be conformed to the world?

-That we should not let the people of this world influence us by their evil thoughts and evil ways.

-Here is an illustration:

-When you make bricks and put the mud into the mold, what shape does the mud take?

-The mud takes the same shape of the mold.

-This is what God and Paul say that we should not do, that is, not to take the shape of the world.

-The world will try and squeeze you into its mold.

-If we think and act like those who are still in Adam, we will look like the people of this world who are being guided by Satan.

-We must not think or act or look like the people of this world.

-Instead, Romans 12:2 says that we should be transformed by the renewing of our minds.

-When Jesus was on the mountain with Peter, James, and John, He was transformed before them, and Christ's inner godly nature and glory were revealed.

-Like Christ, our inner godly nature should also be revealed as we live our lives.

-How do we offer our bodies as a living sacrifice to God, and be transformed by the renewing of our minds?

-By reading the Word of God and allowing it to renew our minds.

-When our minds are renewed, they become full of the Word of God.

-When our minds are renewed, they are controlled by the Word of God.

-When our minds are renewed, our wills are transformed.

-Our wills are transformed which helps us to want only what God wants.

-Our wills are transformed which helps us leave our own plans, and trust in the perfect will of God Himself.

-Only God's will is completely perfect.

-This is why our wills should always be under the will of our God.

-As Colossians 3:2 says: "Set your minds on things above, not on earthly things."

-In summary, as we have just learned in Romans 12:1-2:

-God and Paul are encouraging all Christians to offer themselves as living sacrifices so that our minds may be renewed.

-Now, starting with Romans 12:3, God and Paul talk of using the spiritual gifts that God has given us.

Let's read Romans 12:3

3-For by the grace given me I say to every one of you: Do not think of yourself more highly than you ought, but rather think of yourself with sober judgment, in accordance with the faith God has distributed to each of you.

-In the Bible, there are two major passages and two minor passages regarding the spiritual gifts that God gives to Christians.

-The two major passages regarding our spiritual gifts are in Romans 12 and 1 Corinthians 12.

-The two minor passages regarding our spiritual gifts are in Ephesians 4 and 1 Peter 4.

-Beginning in Romans 12:3, what is the foundation for using our spiritual gifts which God gives to us?

-Humility.

-We see this in the Word of God in Romans 12:3 which says this:

-“Do not think of yourself more highly than you ought.”

-To whom are God and Paul speaking?

-All Christians.

-Why is humility the foundation for the use of our spiritual gifts?

-Because people are proud, and the degree to which we humble ourselves before God will be the same degree that God uses our gifts.

-If you want God to use you greatly, you should ask God to help you to humble yourself greatly.

-If you want God to use you a little, then you only have to humble yourself a little.

-In order to believe in Christ, we have to humble ourselves before God.

-In order for God to use our spiritual gifts, we have to humble ourselves before God.

-What is the beauty of humbling ourselves before God?

-We gain eternal life, and God will use us greatly on this earth.

-What is the main barrier to humbling ourselves before God?

-Our flesh.

-As we learned in Romans 8:7, the flesh does not want to nor cannot humble itself before God.

Let's read Romans 12:4-5

4-For just as each of us has one body with many members, and these members do not all have the same function,

5-so in Christ we, though many, form one body, and each member belongs to all the others.

-What is the illustration which God and Paul use to teach us about spiritual gifts?

-Our physical bodies.

-God made our bodies with many parts, and He gave each part the ability to do a different type of work.

-Would it be right for the feet to get angry because they cannot hear like the ears?

-No.

-Would it be right for the eyes to be jealous because they cannot pick things up like the hands?

-No.

-Just like God has given all body parts different works, but the body is one:

-So God has given all Christians different works, but the body of Christ is one.

-Just like each body part has its own gift to help the whole body,

-So each Christian has his own gift to help the whole body of Christ.

-Do eyes just see for themselves or do they see for all of the body?

-For all of the body.

-Your eyes see a mango tree, and your hands pick the fruit for your stomach.

-Does the mind just think for itself or does it think for all of the body?

-For all of the body.

-Your mind understands that the river has crocodiles, and you do not cross it so that you do not die.

-What are a few basic truths about spiritual gifts?

-They are gifts given by God Himself, not earned, and we should not brag about ourselves.

-God has given every Christian a different gift, or a different combination of gifts.

-All gifts are necessary for the Body of Christ to be complete.

-Beginning in Romans 12:6, God and Paul tell of some of the gifts that God has given to Christians.

Let's read Romans 12:6-8

6-We have different gifts, according to the grace given to each of us. If your gift is prophesying, then prophesy in accordance with your faith;

7-if it is serving, then serve; if it is teaching, then teach;

8-if it is to encourage, then give encouragement; if it is giving, then give generously; if it is to lead, do it diligently; if it is to show mercy, do it cheerfully.

- The first gift that is mentioned is prophecy.
- The meaning of the gift of prophecy can be unclear.
- Before the Bible was written, God used prophets to teach people His Word.
- Now that the Bible is finished, God uses the Bible to teach people His Word.
- We understand this from Hebrews 1:1-2:
 - “In the past God spoke to our ancestors through the prophets at many times and in various ways, but in these last days he has spoken to us by his Son [the Lord Jesus Christ].”
- Before the Bible was written, God also used prophets to tell people about the coming Savior and other happenings in the future.
- Now that the Bible is finished, and now that the Savior has come, we can read the words of God through Christ and the prophets directly from the Bible.
- After Christ’s death and resurrection, are there still prophets in the Bible?
- In Acts, there are a few prophets who are mentioned:

-In Acts 11:27-28, some prophets came down from Jerusalem to Antioch. One of them, named Agabus, stood up and through the Spirit predicted that a severe famine would spread over the entire Roman world.

-In Acts 13:1-2, in the church at Antioch, there were prophets and teachers, and while they were worshipping the Lord and fasting, the Holy Spirit said, “Set apart for me Barnabas and Saul for the work to which I have called them.”

-In Acts 15:32, Judas and Silas, who themselves were prophets, said much to encourage and strengthen the believers.

-In Acts 21:10-11, a prophet named Agabus came down from Judea. Coming over to us, he took Paul’s belt, tied his own hands and feet with it and said, “The Holy Spirit says, ‘In this way the Jewish leaders in Jerusalem will bind the owner of this belt and will hand him over to the Gentiles.’”

-What can be said about the New Testament prophets?

-The Holy Spirit through prophets predicted a famine, chose Barnabas and Saul for the work of evangelism, encouraged and strengthened believers, and predicted that Paul would be handed over to the Gentiles.

-What is the conclusion from this?

-That God used many prophets in the Old Testament to teach about God as well as to tell us what would happen in the future.

-And that there were still a few New Testament prophets after the death and resurrection of Christ.

-Are there prophets today?

- In 1 Corinthians 12:28, the Word of God says that God has placed in the church first of all apostles, second prophets, third teachers.

-In Ephesians 4:11-12, the Word of God says that Christ himself gave the apostles, the prophets, the evangelists, the pastors and teachers to equip his people for works of service, so that the body of Christ may be built up

-One truth about prophecy that we know is that all prophecy is directly from God Himself:

-In 2 Peter 1:21, we read this: “For prophecy never had its origin in the human will, but prophets, though human, spoke from God as they were carried along by the Holy Spirit.”

-The second gift is the gift of serving.

-The gift of serving is to help others in every way such as helping others with food or clothing.

-The early Church chose seven men to serve so that the apostles could pray and teach others the Word of God (Acts 6:3-4).

-The third gift is the gift of teaching.

-The gift of teaching is to understand God’s truths and to teach them well.

-The fourth gift is the gift of encouragement.

-The gift of encouragement helps others grow in their faith and obedience to God’s Word.

-The fifth gift is the gift of giving.

-The gift of giving gives money wisely to help others for God’s work.

-The sixth gift is the gift of leading.

-The gift of leading is the ability to plan ahead and to complete jobs.

-The seventh gift is the gift of mercy.

-The gift of mercy shares sadness and burdens that other people have.