

The Gospel in a Nutshell

Romans 11:25-32

We have seen in our study of Romans 11 that Paul, under inspiration of the Holy Spirit, predicts that sometime in the future the people of Israel (Jews) will come to faith in Christ in large numbers. There is disagreement as to when and how this will occur. Paul calls it a “mystery” (v.25). However, there is agreement that God has a purpose for His people. *“Is God’s purpose for His people by design or simply a response to their decisions?”*

I. Man’s Miserable Problem

One only needs to casually read the Bible to see that man has a big problem with God.

(A). There is a natural blindness toward the glory of God (v. 25).

“The gospel is hid to them that are lost” (II Cor. 4:3) not because of any defect with the gospel, but it is hid because of a defect within the hearer of the gospel.

“Ye were once in darkness, but now are ye light in the Lord” (Eph. 5:8).

(B). There is a natural bitterness toward the cross of Christ (v. 28).

Paul says that the Jews in his day were *“enemies of the gospel”* (v. 28). Paul said,

“The preaching of the cross is to them that perish foolishness” (I Cor. 1:18).

(C). There is a natural bias toward the magnification of man (v.25).

Everyone one of us tends to look within for something that would make us proud.

“I’ve made myself right with God.” “With my hands I have obtained my fortune.”

“Most men will proclaim to everyone his own goodness . . .” (Proverbs 20:6).

Because of these three miserable problems a sinner is without hope, but for God.

II. God’s Merciful Purpose

All sinners, Jews and Gentiles, are in need of an awakening and deliverance from sin.

God would remain righteous and holy by judging sinners without mercy, but He has

chosen to be merciful to sinners *according to a plan and purpose He has designed!*

“Blindness in part has happened to Israel until all the fullness of the Gentiles come in” (v. 25).

(A). God’s merciful purpose involves election (v. 28).

Sinners would never be saved unless God chose to take away their blindness.

(B). God’s merciful purpose involves gifts (v.29).

These gifts would include regeneration, repentance, justification, and all gifts.

(C). God’s merciful purpose involves a calling (v. 29).

God called you. His voice may have been a whisper or a shout, but He called.

III. Faith’s Marvelous Power

There is no need to despair over the condition of your soul. Yes, you may be a person who does not believe in Christ. You may have been bitter towards God your whole life. Join the club. Both the Gentiles and the Jews as a group, and any believer in Jesus Christ have had times of blindness and unbelief. However, God’s plan is to “conclude them all in unbelief (shut them all up together), so that nobody might brag. He demonstrates His mercy to us through faith in the person and work of His Son Jesus Christ (vs. 30-32). If you are in need this Thanksgiving weekend of God’s grace, I appeal to you to turn your eyes of faith toward the only Savior for sinners.