

Mercy, Mercy, Mercy Upon All  
Romans 11:25-36

INTRO: The book of Romans has been called, "The Book of Mercies." In the last part of Romans eleven, we have a reminder of God's mercy as it fits in His sovereign plan (Vs 30,31, 32).

Salvation must be and is all of grace and mercy. The word mercy means, "not getting what we deserve." A guilty man pleads for mercy knowing he deserves the punishment prescribed by the judge. You and I deserved hell and could do nothing to save ourselves from it but to throw ourselves upon the mercy of our sovereign Judge. Salvation is not by works; it is by mercy (Titus 3:5).

God's covenant people, the Jews, rejected His Son when He came down to the earth (John 1:11). It was through the rejection of Christ by the Jews that mercy came to the Gentiles (vs 30).

Yet, there is hope for the Jews. Their blindness and hardening are not permanent. It is for a purpose and when that purpose is accomplished, the blindness and hardness will be taken away.

I. VS 25, THE HIGH TIDE OF THE GENTILES

- A. "For I would not, brethren, that ye should be ignorant...."
  - 1. He did not want the Gentile believers at Rome to be unaware.
  - 2. He wanted them to take to heart his message.
- B. "This mystery...."
  - 1. That which was concealed is now revealed.
  - 2. The mystery that is revealed is the fullness of the Gentiles as it concerns the national salvation of Israel.
  - 3. Mystery, "a truth which would not have been revealed if God had not revealed" (Hendriksen 377).
- C. "Lest ye be wise in your own conceits...."
  - 1. Gentiles had best not be puffed up or boastful in their salvation. We better not be anti-Semitic.
  - 2. Salvation is not of our works (Eph 2:8-9), so we cannot boast in them.
  - 3. It is through Israel's blindness that Gentiles have the gift of mercy.
- D. "Blindness in part is happened to Israel, until the fullness of the Gentiles be come in." The mystery is fully explained in the last part of this verse.
  - 1. "That blindness in part is happened to Israel."
    - a) It is God who blinds; it is God who hardens (9:18).
    - b) Man is stubborn, rebellious; and God thus hardens.
  - 2. "In part." It is in part for God has a believing remnant among the Jews (11:5).
  - 3. "Until" it is temporary.

4. "The fulness of the Gentiles be come in."
  - a) This is a definite "fulness," because God has the very number of Gentiles that will be saved before the tribulation recorded. When that last Gentile is saved, Jesus will come and the fulness will be "come in."
  - b) We need to keep in mind that a blindness, a hardening, had to come to Israel for us Gentiles to come in.

## II. VSS 26-27, THE SALVATION AND DELIVERANCE OF ALL ISRAEL

- A. Vs, 26, A Savior, a Deliver, is coming and "all Israel shall be saved."
  1. Paul's heart must have jumped for joy as he thought of the prospects of the future.
    - a) Those who survive the great tribulation, those of Israel, shall be saved.
    - b) These will have heard the preaching of the 144,000 and the two witnesses (Rev 7:1-8; 11:3-13).
  2. Ezekiel 20:33-38 emphasizes the fact of what God is going to do for the nation of Israel. The rebels will be purged out before the millennium begins.
  3. The Deliverer is none other than the Lord Jesus Christ as is pointed out in Acts 15:13-18.
  4. Note that God in His sovereignty "shall take away ungodliness from Jacob. God will bring Israel back to Himself.
- B. Vs 27, Here is an unconditional covenant that God makes with Israel. Friends, when Christ comes back to this earth, a nation will be born in a day.
  1. Christ will be seen as the Messiah (Zech 12:10). Yes, many thousands will be saved during the tribulation; but when He, Christ, comes back to earth the Jews will be a saved folk.
  2. Look with me at Hebrews 8:8-13. These verses tell us of Israel's salvation.

## III. VSS 28-32, MERCY FOR THE DISOBEDIENT

- A. Vs 28, the father's spoken of in this verses are Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob.
  1. Because of sin, the sin of rejecting the Lord Jesus as her Messiah, the Jews were cut off, set aside became the enemies of God (11:17-20).
  2. "But as touching the election, they are beloved..."
    - a) Yes, they are temporarily cut off; but in God's sovereign plan, they are God's choice.
    - b) Right now, Israel is at enmity with God, the enemy of God (Rom 5:10; 8:7).
- B. Vs 29, The eternal purpose of God is for Israel to be saved; so God's election ensures that Israel's blindness and hardness is temporary.

1. "Gifts" --Greek *charismata*, "grace gifts, gifts flowing from the pure unmerited favor of a holy God.
  2. "Calling"--this calling is God's election of Israel to be His own. God's plan for Israel's salvation will not change.
  3. "Without repentance" irrevocable. Israel will be saved. Here rebellion and unbelief will be taken away, and she will be forgiven (vss 26-27). (Note I Thes 5:24).
- C. Vs. 30, The Gentiles received mercy through Israel's unbelief (vs 11).
1. The Gospel is to the Jew first, but it is also for the Greek (Rom 1:16).
  2. The salvation of the Gentiles provokes Israel to jealousy.
- D. Vs 31, here is a chain of blessings.
1. Because of Israel's unbelief, Gentiles have received mercy.
  2. Because of the mercy shown to undeserving Gentiles, Jews will receive mercy and be saved.
- E. Vs 32, All of mankind is totally depraved and in unbelief. Without the mercy of God, all would spend eternity in hell.
1. Man is imprisoned in disobedience and unbelief with no hope of release except God in mercy pardon him.
  2. "Upon all" speaks of both Jews and Gentiles. It does not teach universal salvation.

#### IV. VSS 33-36, THE DOXOLOGY, HYMN OF PRAISES

- A. Vs 33, "Unsearchable" means that we can never reach the depths of God's wisdom, knowledge, and judgments (Psa 139:6; 77:19).
- B. Vs 34, the answer to the question posed is "no man." (Note Isa 40:13).
- C. Vs 35, Since no one came before God, no one can give to God what has not first been received from His hand. God is under no obligation to man.
- D. Vs 36, He created it; He sustains it all. Give Him all the glory!!! (Rev 4:10-11).

CONCLUSION: Mercy and anything else good, we receive from God's hand is strictly a gracious gift from the Sovereign of the Universe.