

## 20230716 THE UNCHANGEABLE GRACE OF GOD

Romans 11:25-36

(Understanding the Gospel Part 13)

<sup>25</sup> I do not want you to be ignorant of this mystery, brothers and sisters, so that you may not be conceited: Israel has experienced a hardening in part until the full number of the Gentiles has come in,

<sup>26</sup> and in this way all Israel will be saved. As it is written: “The deliverer will come from Zion; he will turn godlessness away from Jacob.

<sup>27</sup> And this is my covenant with them when I take away their sins.”

<sup>28</sup> As far as the gospel is concerned, they are enemies for your sake; but as far as election is concerned, they are loved on account of the patriarchs,

<sup>29</sup> for God’s gifts and his call are irrevocable.

<sup>30</sup> Just as you who were at one time disobedient to God have now received mercy as a result of their disobedience,

<sup>31</sup> so they too have now become disobedient in order that they too may now receive mercy as a result of God’s mercy to you.

<sup>32</sup> For God has bound everyone over to disobedience so that he may have mercy on them all.

<sup>33</sup> Oh, the depth of the riches of the wisdom and knowledge of God! How unsearchable his judgments, and his paths beyond tracing out!

<sup>34</sup> “Who has known the mind of the Lord? Or who has been his counselor?”

<sup>35</sup> “Who has ever given to God, that God should repay them?”

<sup>36</sup> For from him and through him and for him are all things. To him be the glory forever! Amen.

### 1. The particular situation and challenge to the Roman Christians: Gentile believers’ misunderstanding toward Jews and Jewish Christians

#### Acts 6:1

<sup>1</sup> In those days when the number of disciples was increasing, the Hellenistic Jews among them complained against the Hebraic Jews because their widows were being overlooked in the daily distribution of food.

#### Romans 1:1-5

<sup>1</sup> Paul, a servant of Christ Jesus, called to be an apostle and set apart for the gospel of God -

<sup>2</sup> the gospel he promised beforehand through his prophets in the Holy Scriptures

<sup>3</sup> regarding his Son, who as to his earthly life was a descendant of David,

<sup>4</sup> and who through the Spirit of holiness was appointed the Son of God in power by his resurrection from the dead: Jesus Christ our Lord.

<sup>5</sup> Through him we received grace and apostleship to call all the Gentiles to the obedience that comes from faith for his name’s sake.

#### Romans 9:1-5

<sup>1</sup> I speak the truth in Christ - I am not lying, my conscience confirms it through the Holy Spirit –

<sup>2</sup> I have great sorrow and unceasing anguish in my heart.

<sup>3</sup> For I could wish that I myself were cursed and cut off from Christ for the sake of my people, those of my own race,

<sup>4</sup> the people of Israel. Theirs is the adoption to sonship; theirs the divine glory, the covenants, the receiving of the law, the temple worship and the promises.

<sup>5</sup> Theirs are the patriarchs, and from them is traced the human ancestry of the Messiah, who is God over all, forever praised! Amen.

### 2. God’s antidote to the problem in the church through the Gospel: God’s plan for the nation Israel

#### Romans 11:35

<sup>25</sup> I want to lay all this out on the table as clearly as I can, friends. This is complicated. It would be easy to misinterpret what’s going on and arrogantly assume that you’re royalty and they’re just rabble, out on their ears for good. But that’s not it at all. This hardness on the part of insider Israel toward God is temporary. Its effect is to open things up to all the outsiders so that we end up with a full house. (Message Bible)

### **Isaiah 59:20-21**

<sup>20</sup> “The Redeemer will come to Zion, to those in Jacob who repent of their sins,” declares the LORD.

<sup>21</sup> “As for me, this is my covenant with them,” says the LORD. “My Spirit, who is on you, will not depart from you, and my words that I have put in your mouth will always be on your lips, on the lips of your children and on the lips of their descendants—from this time on and forever,” says the LORD.

### **Jeremiah 33:20-32, 25-26**

<sup>20</sup> This is what the LORD says: ‘If you can break my covenant with the day and my covenant with the night, so that day and night no longer come at their appointed time,

<sup>21</sup> then my covenant with David my servant—and my covenant with the Levites who are priests ministering before me—can be broken and David will no longer have a descendant to reign on his throne.’

<sup>25</sup> This is what the LORD says: ‘If I have not made my covenant with day and night and established the laws of heaven and earth,

<sup>26</sup> then I will reject the descendants of Jacob and David my servant and will not choose one of his sons to rule over the descendants of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob. For I will restore their fortunes and have compassion on them.’

### **3. The unchangeable grace of God**

#### **Romans 11:29**

<sup>29</sup> for God’s gifts and his call are irrevocable.

Martin Luther “That Jesus Christ was born a Jew” in 1523

*“If the apostles, who also were Jews, had dealt with us Gentiles as we Gentiles deal with the Jews, there would never have been a Christian among the Gentiles. Since they dealt with us Gentiles in such brotherly fashion, we in our turn ought to treat the Jews in a brotherly manner in order that we might*

*convert some of them. For even we ourselves are not yet all very far along, not to speak of having arrived.”*

Martin Luther “Concerning the Jews and their lies” in 1543

*“Verily, a hopeless, wicked, venomous and devilish thing is the existence of these Jews who for fourteen hundred years have been, and still are, our torment and misfortune... Know, Christian, that next to the devil, thou has no enemy more cruel, more venomous and violent than a true Jew”.*

#### **Application**

Understanding this Gospel through studying this book of Romans:

1. Help me dwell in God’s power when I go through the difficult times in life by being encouraged by God’s unchangeable grace
2. Help me love those whom I can’t love for myself by being strengthened by God’s unmistakable calling