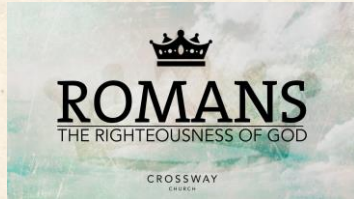


Apply The Word

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Message Info

Title:

God Has Not Rejected His People

Speaker:

Peter Privitera

Date:

March 26, 2017

Scriptures

Rom. 11:1-10

Theme: God is faithful to Israel which means he is faithful to you.

Introduction: How God deals with Israel is tremendously relevant to Christians. It shows us how graciously God deals with his people – of whom we are now a part. Christianity is connected to ancient Israel – and that’s a good thing. God has always been faithful to his people and he always will be. Some Christians go gaga over meeting or talking with a Jewish person. They import all manner of spirituality into the person’s ethnicity, most of which is unhelpful. On the other end of the spectrum, there are Christians who are anti-Semitic. They dislike the Jews because of a general rejection of the gospel. They take on a self-righteous attitude. But, for most of us, talking about ethnic Israel may simply seem irrelevant. And so, God has Paul teach us here regarding ethnic Israel.

1. There is always a believing remnant (1-6)

- a. In large part, Jewish people have rejected the notion that Jesus of Nazareth is the Savior who has come from God and died for sinners. Because of this, the question follows, since the Jewish people have by and large rejected God’s saving grace, does God then reject them?
- b. Paul submits two powerful statements of evidence to deny that God has rejected ethnic Israel. First, his own testimony. He is a Jew’s Jew, a descendant of Abraham, and from the tribe of Benjamin. Second, he recalls the story of Elijah. He runs into the wilderness on the heels of one of the most remarkable displays of the reality of God in all of scripture. And God, instead of rejecting Elijah, he pursues him and shows him gracious acceptance despite Israel’s rejection.
- c. It may look like all the Jewish people reject Jesus but there are far more that believe than we know. And there will be more to come because those that belong to God are chosen by God and believe.
- d. Whether Jew or Gentile, belonging to God’s people is always predicated on the grace of God. We can’t give it to ourselves, it’s a gift. And God chooses to whom he gives that gift. And those who receive the gift don’t boast about what they did to deserve it. When we fail to see the gift, we start to think we deserve our status as God’s people.

2. Hardening is always happening (7-10)

- a. If we harden our hearts today, we find our hearts harder tomorrow. Rejecting God is the highest dysfunction. It is categorical rebellion and a cutting oneself off from the very purposes of life. If it continues unchecked there is the promise of retribution ultimately.

Questions:

1. How have you viewed the Jews considering their rejection of Christ?
2. How do you express gratitude to God for his gracious gift of salvation?
3. Are there areas of our life in which you find your heart is hardening?