

**Preparing for next week’s sermon (Looking Ahead)**

6. Next week is Mother’s Day, typically one of the highest church attendance Sundays (after Easter, of course). We will step out of Romans to think about “The Grace of Waiting” from **II Corinthians 12:7-10**. Read that text and then discuss, “Why do you think the topic of “waiting” is appropriate for a Mother’s Day sermon?”

7. Look back at **II Corinthians 12:1-6**. How do these verses lay the foundation for Paul’s comment in verse 7? How would you describe God’s good purpose for allowing Paul to have a “thorn in the flesh”? From today’s main text (7-10), can you find at least FOUR specific things that we know about this affliction?

- a. \_\_\_\_\_
- b. \_\_\_\_\_
- c. \_\_\_\_\_
- d. \_\_\_\_\_

8. Paul talks about how he prayed about this circumstance. What specifically do we learn about how Paul viewed God and how he practiced prayer from verse 8? Keep your answers directly tied to **this text** (instead of everything else you know from Scripture).

|                  |                     |
|------------------|---------------------|
| Truths about God | Truths about Prayer |
| _____            | _____               |
| _____            | _____               |
| _____            | _____               |

9. In verses 9 & 10 Paul talks about God’s response to His prayer and then his own response to God. In one sentence each, how would you summarize the text?

God’s response: \_\_\_\_\_

Paul’s response: \_\_\_\_\_

**Time to PRAY** (Or do this at the beginning of your group time)

Share prayer requests that relate to the people in your group & PRAY for them!

- ◆
- ◆
- ◆

**Mother’s Day Worship Next Sunday: May 10<sup>th</sup>, 2026**  
 “The Grace of Waiting”  
 (2 Corinthians 12, Psalm 130) Pastor Jay Mosser

**Answer Key:** ▪ treasured ▪ harvest ▪ true vine ▪ humble ▪ revealed ▪ forgotten ▪ doctrine

**Sermon Notes – May 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2026**

**Review**

- ⇒ The book of Romans was written by the Apostle Paul to explain how we as sinners can be declared righteous before God on the basis of Jesus’ death on the cross in our place. Paul explains how we can know God better and how we live for Him.
- ⇒ **Romans 11** answers questions about God’s plan for Israel. If God’s chosen people were abandoned by God, then on what basis might followers of Jesus trust God’s care for us?
- ⇒ In the first 10 verses of **Romans 11** we heard Paul declare boldly that “God has not rejected His people whom He foreknew.” We remembered that God has not forgotten His promises to Israel, and He will not forget His promises to us either.

**Today’s Text: Romans 11:11-36**

Today’s text tells the glorious story of God, in all His wisdom and power, working out His redemption plan in human history. Israel, God’s chosen people, was to be a light to the nations. They were blessed by God to be a blessing to the world, and we today are part of God’s glorious story, taking the gospel to the nations.

**God’s Salvation Extends To The Nations (11-12)**

- ⇒ **Romans 11:11** begins with the third of three similar questions: **vss. 1, 7, and 11**. Today’s test also concludes the first major portion of Romans, the section on doctrinal teaching (**Ch. 1-11**).
- ⇒ Paul’s explanation here should not come as a surprise. Jesus had taught this same lesson in **Matthew 21:33-46**.
- ⇒ God’s plan in calling Abraham and making Israel His own special people was so that they would be His “\_\_\_\_\_” possession ...a kingdom of priests and a holy nation.” READ **Exodus 19:4-6** and remember **Psalms 96:3** and **Isaiah 49:b**.

**God’s Grace Welcomes The Outsider (13-24)**

- ⇒ Paul now specifically addresses his Gentile readers using two object lessons to teach gospel truth (**13**).
- ⇒ The OT “Feast of Firstfruits” was a celebration of the \_\_\_\_\_ that was just beginning. It was an anticipation of a greater harvest yet to come. In a similar way, a small lump of dough

offered to God would be an appropriate offering of gratitude, sanctifying the rest of the batch.

- ⇒ Olive trees were a familiar sight in Israel, both in ancient times and today. Jesus, of course, uses the same imagery in **John 15** – apart from the \_\_\_\_\_ “you can do nothing.” (See also **Isaiah 5**)
- ⇒ In this analogy, the root is the rich Jewish heritage – the Scripture, the prophets, the Messiah (**9:3-4**). Paul is pointing out that Gentile believers receive the benefits of this rich heritage and should be \_\_\_\_\_.

### God’s Plan For Israel’s Future Is For Their Salvation (25-32)

- ⇒ So now, Paul interprets his teaching so far by explaining a “mystery” – something not yet \_\_\_\_\_. In this age, the Church age, God is drawing in a worldwide harvest of the nations (**25**).
- ⇒ That worldwide harvest will one day give way to a massive Jewish revival of God’s chosen people coming to faith in Jesus Christ, their true Messiah (**26**), likely when Jesus returns in glory. God has not \_\_\_\_\_ His people (**29**).

### God’s Greatness Leads To Doxology (33-36)

- ⇒ At this point, Paul can hardly contain himself! He looks at the wisdom and beauty of God’s redemption plan and is overcome with praise. This is a pattern for us – good \_\_\_\_\_ should always drive us to worship. A biblical pattern is “Revelation and Response.”
- ⇒ This is a similar rhythm to **Ephesians 3**, “For this reason I bow my knees...”
- ⇒ Response to God may be a song or a prayer or a commitment or a step toward greater obedience...or a joyful celebration of communion.

#### Helpful Resources –

- “Has the Church Replaced Israel?” by Michael Vlach
- “Israel in the Bible’s Storyline,” by Michael Vlach
- “What Should We Think About Israel?” by J. Randall Price
- “Mission in the OT: Israel as a Light to the Nations,” by Walter Kaiser

### Responding To God’s Word

- ⇒ God’s heart for the nations is like a mighty river flowing through Scripture looking ahead to that day of worship around God’s throne when some from “every tribe and tongue and people and nation” will be present. Will you be there? And are you helping others be there too?
- ⇒ Communion verses: **Romans 11:33-36**

# Community Group Notes

## Getting Started

What kinds of things tend to move you to jealousy? Is jealousy always a bad thing or can it sometimes be a good thing? Can you think of any time recently where you have been jealous of someone and that motivated you to do something you actually really needed to do?

## Looking Back and Taking it Home (Review)

1. Read **Romans 11:11-32** (ESV) together as a group and look for commands. You should find at least 5. What exactly does Paul want his readers to do with the information in these verses?

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2. Last week we identified 5 Acts that Paul lays out in the form of a salvation – historical drama. As you review those events again, which of them would probably have been surprising to Paul’s readers? Were any of them new information to you?

3. Paul is often called “the Apostle to the Gentiles.” According to this passage, why is Paul so dedicated to preaching to the Gentiles? Is it just that he was commissioned by God for that ministry and that he has a heart for Gentiles in the same way that a modern-day missionary might have a heart for a certain people group? Or is there something else involved?

4. As a New Testament Christian, why does it matter whether God is done with the Jews or if he has further plans for them? Is Paul just indulging in some end-times-trivia in this chapter or is there a bigger issue at stake? If so, what is that bigger issue?

5. Romans 11:33-36 is typically seen as a doxology. Why do you think Paul concludes his discussion of God’s plan for Israel with such a lavish ascription of praise to God? Which of God’s character qualities does he focus on? Is there any relationship between these verses and the rest of the chapter or is it just a nice afterthought?