

## **LESSON 23 II:1-12**

In the verses leading up to chapter 11, we looked at the way Paul is using the Old Testament writers to build his case that salvation comes by faith, after hearing the Word of God preached. This faith is given to both Jews and Gentiles, to the extent that the Jews have lost spiritual step by disobeying and rebelling, opening the door for the Gentiles to receive the mantle through obedience.

### **ELECTION COMES BY GRACE, NOT FAMILIAL DISCRIMINATION**

Paul asks again, “Has God rejected his people?” Is God done with Israel? Have they reached the end of their use? Not at all. Paul appeals to his own testimony. “For I myself am an Israelite, a descendant of Abraham, a member of the tribe of Benjamin.” Therefore, Paul could emphatically state, “God has not rejected his people whom he foreknew.”

\* Note \* Remember, foreknowledge (as Pastor Adam understands it) does not focus on the activity, decisions, or volition of an individual, but rather their personality, potential, or heart. God hasn’t rejected Israel, but knowing them previously, He is vested in their salvation.

Elijah is a good representative of a remnant of Jews still called and faithful. Even when he thought he was the last of God’s people he was reminded of the fact that God had 7,000 “... men who have not bowed the knee to Baal.” There isn’t a remnant based upon the choice of the individual, but they are “chosen by grace.”

\* Note \* The choosing work of God is a huge example of grace.

Paul concludes then, “If it is by grace, it is no longer on the basis of works; otherwise grace would no longer be grace.” Works don’t work. Grace is the key.

### **ELECTION THROUGH GRACE COMES TO GENTILES. INCITING JEALOUSY OF THE JEWS**

Israel, or the Jews have worked hard for salvation through the keeping of the Law, but have fallen far short. The only ones to attain salvation are the “elect,” or “chosen.” Why them? Why not those who have worked so hard? Because salvation is in the hands of God, not humanity. As a matter of fact, Paul says that those who God did not chose to save He hardened so that they would not be saved. “God gave them a spirit of stupor, eyes that would not see and ears that would not hear, down to this very day.” David even said, “Let their table become a snare and a trap, a stumbling block and a retribution for them; let their eyes be darkened so that they cannot see, and bend their backs forever.”

\* Note \* Some hypercalvanists teach the doctrines of election and retribution. Election refers to the work of God in choosing individuals to save by His own criteria and pleasure. Retribution refers to the neglect of God in rescuing the rest of humanity, and allowing them to maintain a disposition of depravity to ultimately be punished by God in the lake of fire. In essence some view this as God choosing to save some, and choosing to punish others. This text supports such a view.

Paul says that Israel stumbles, not so that they would be rejected altogether, but so that the Gentiles might have opportunity. If the Jews failure brings opportunity to the Gentiles, then imagine how much more blessed the world would be if the Jews did rightly.