

# God's Gracious Plan

Romans 9:1 – 11:36



Apostle Paul (~ 5 – 67 A.D.)  
By Andrei Rublev (1410)

# God's Gracious Plan Introduction



# God's Gracious Plan Introduction

- Paul's goals in **Romans**:
  - To introduce himself to the Roman church in preparation for later mission work.
  - To encourage unity among Jewish and Gentile believers.
  - To thoroughly explain the gospel he preaches as the means to both of the above.

# God's Gracious Plan Introduction

- Now Paul addresses a key problem.
- Israel has received numerous advantages, but on the whole, has not believed.
- Gentiles now outnumber Jews in the church.

# God's Gracious Plan Introduction

- What are we to think of Israel's rejection of their Messiah?
- Is God now through with Israel?
- How exactly do all these Gentiles fit into God's plan?
- Is unity in the church possible given this diversity?

# God's Gracious Plan Introduction



*E Pluribus Unum*  
“From the many,  
one”

The motto on the  
US Seal

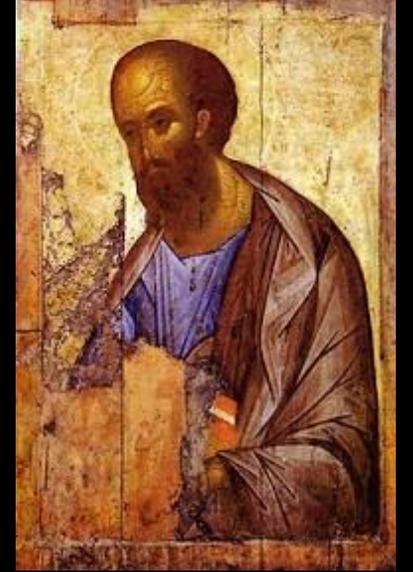
# God's Gracious Plan Introduction

Unity in diversity is not only possible,  
it is part of God's gracious plan.

# God's Gracious Plan Introduction

1. Paul's Great Sorrow 9:1-5
2. Paul's Heart's Desire 10:1-13
3. The Remnant 11:1-10
4. The Gentiles 11:11-24
5. The Mystery 11:25-36

# 1. Paul's Great Sorrow 9:1-5



# 1. Paul's Great Sorrow 9:1-5

- After the incident with the golden calf, Moses went before the Lord and said,

- **Exodus 32:3 1b-32** (ESV)

“Alas, this people has sinned a great sin. They have made for themselves gods of gold. <sup>32</sup> But now, if you will forgive their sin—but if not, please blot me out of your book that you have written.”

# 1. Paul's Great Sorrow 9:1-5



*Paul goes further than Moses, asking that the curse earned by Israel fall on him so that the people might be forgiven ... By turning their backs on Christ, the Israelites have placed themselves under the curse that comes on all those who are not saved.*

*– Douglas Moo,  
Wheaton Graduate School*

# 1. Paul's Great Sorrow 9:1-5

- Paul's hurting heart for the lost is part of how God used him so powerfully to reach so many people.
- How many of us can say that our hearts are broken for the lost of this world?

## 2. Paul's Heart's Desire 10:1-13



## 2. Paul's Heart's Desire 10:1-13

- Highlight **Romans 10:9-10**.
- It is a concise statement of how we respond to the gospel.

## 2. Paul's Heart's Desire 10:1-13

- The fatal error the Jews were then making was in relying on their own works to produce righteousness.
- In doing so, they were rejecting the righteousness of God available in Christ.
- They were seeking to establish their own based on law.

## 2. Paul's Heart's Desire 10:1-13



*Paul has no doubt of their religious sincerity. He can testify about them from his own experience that they are zealous for God. And he knows what he is talking about, because he himself in his pre-conversion life was 'extremely zealous' in his religion ... Sincerity is not enough, for we may be sincerely mistaken.*

*– John Stott (1921 – 2011),  
All Souls Church, London*

## 2. Paul's Heart's Desire 10:1-13

- Paul explains how the good news of Jesus now goes out to all, both Jew and Gentile.
- He ties it back to the Old Testament, grounding his current message in established revelation.

## 2. Paul's Heart's Desire 10:1-13

- The full verse from **Isaiah 28:16** (ESV) reads as follows.

Therefore thus says the Lord GOD,

“Behold, I am the one who has laid as a foundation in Zion,  
a stone, a tested stone,  
a precious cornerstone, of a sure foundation:  
‘Whoever believes will not be in haste.’

- The last part in the **LXX** is,

“and he who believes in him will never be put to shame.”

## 2. Paul's Heart's Desire 10:1-13

- Peter likewise quoted this verse on the day of Pentecost.
- Joel 2:32 (ESV)

And it shall come to pass that everyone who calls on the name of the LORD shall be saved. For in Mount Zion and in Jerusalem there shall be those who escape, as the LORD has said, and among the survivors shall be those whom the LORD calls.

### 3. The Remnant 11:1-10



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- Paul offers himself as an example of the remnant.
- He illustrates his point by reminding his readers of Elijah.
- That prophet was tempted to think the nation had totally rejected God – and would be rejected by God in return.

### 3. The Remnant 11:1-10



*Although Elijah thought that the whole nation of Israel had turned away from God and that he was the only faithful Israelite left, this was not the case. The Lord had preserved for himself a faithful remnant numbering seven thousand.*

*– Colin Kruse,  
Melbourne School of Theology*

### 3. The Remnant 11:1-10

- When we read passages like these we always need to keep in mind two things:
  1. The elect are always apparent by their genuine faith.
  2. Those who are hardened are the same as those who reject the grace of God.
- The seven thousand in the days of Elijah didn't bow their knees to Baal when so many others did.

## 4. The Gentiles 11:11-24



## 4. The Gentiles 11:11-24

- Israel's rejection of the gospel has led to Gentile inclusion in the church.
- This is a partial description of Paul's own ministry.
- Consider his ministry in Corinth.

## 4. The Gentiles 11:11-24

- Acts 18:5-6 (ESV)

<sup>5</sup> When Silas and Timothy arrived from Macedonia, Paul was occupied with the word, testifying to the Jews that the Christ was Jesus. <sup>6</sup> And when they opposed and reviled him, he shook out his garments and said to them, “Your blood be on your own heads! I am innocent. From now on I will go to the Gentiles.”

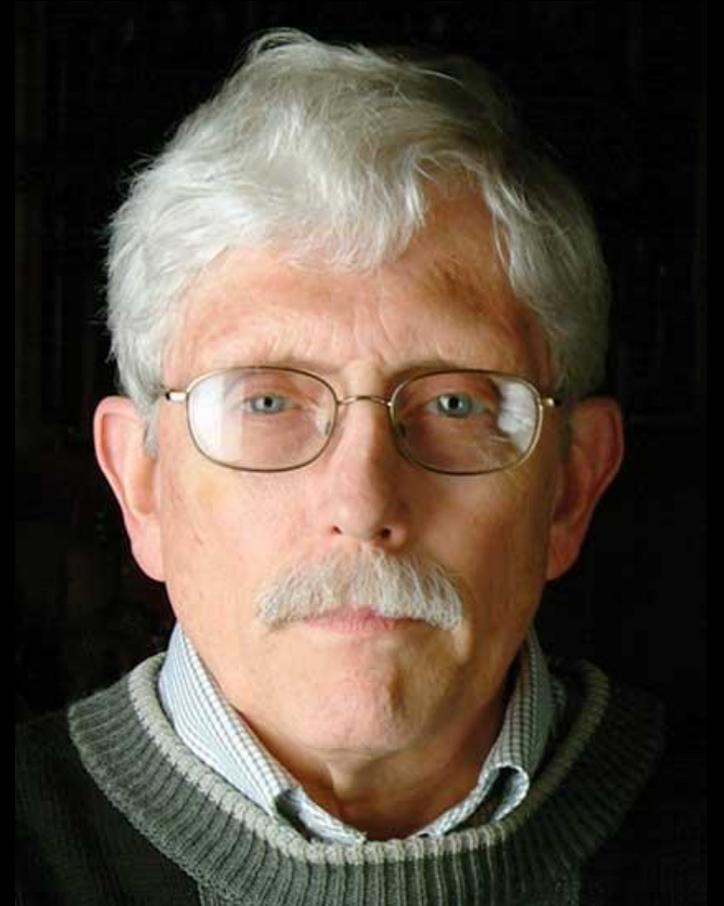
## 4. The Gentiles 11:11-24

- Paul's point here is that the nations including Israel, are all brought together into one on the basis of faith.

## 4. The Gentiles 11:11-24

*Stemming from the Old Testament, the image shows that Jew and Gentile together are the true people of God ... Two issues are a part of this: (1) There is no basis for anti-Semitism, for the Jewish people are equally the object of Divine love as are Gentiles ...*

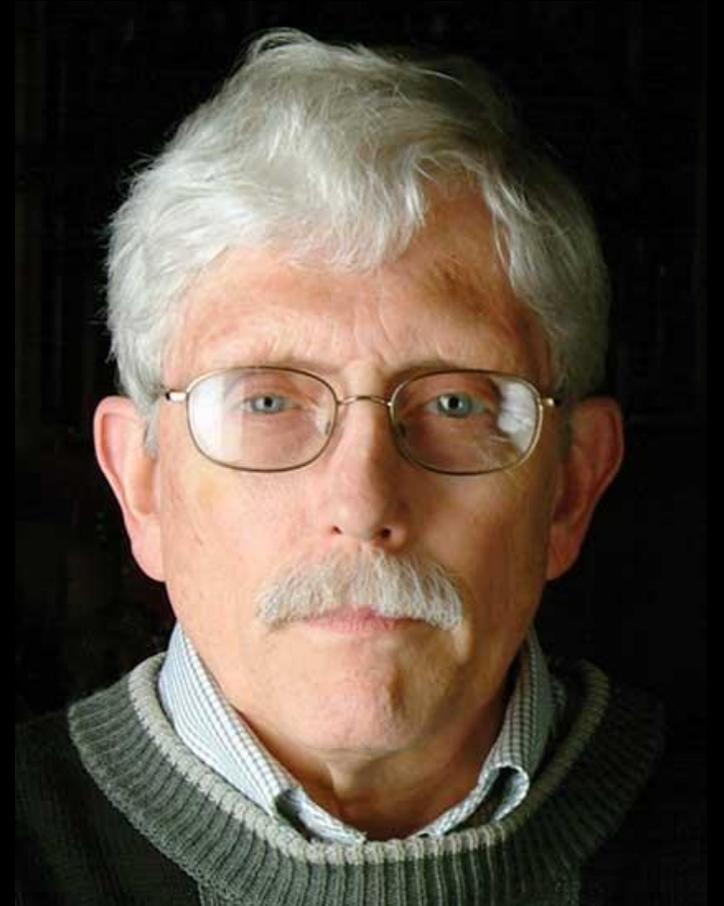
*– Grant Osborne,  
Trinity Evangelical Divinity School*



## 4. The Gentiles 11:11-24

*... and (2) all cultures and races become one in Christ. There is no possibility of racism, for every race and ethnic group is brought into both unity and equality in Christ.*

*– Grant Osborne,  
Trinity Evangelical Divinity School*



## 4. The Gentiles 11:11-24

*[Paul's] warning is clear. Gentile believers must welcome Jewish believers and vice versa, for neither is superior to the other in God's sight. Because God has opened the door of salvation to us all, we must learn to accept one another and live as brothers and sisters.*

*– David M. Kasali, Bilingual Christian  
University of the Congo*



## 4. The Gentiles 11:11-24

- Rather than being *colorblind*, we might rather appreciate the diversity of a multiethnic people of God.
- Our various ethnicities, cultures, classes and backgrounds will enrich the church if we let them.
- If, however, we view ourselves as somehow more worthy of God's grace than someone else, we are in trouble.

## 4. The Gentiles 11:11-24

Unity in diversity is not only possible,  
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# 5. The Mystery 11:25-36



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*Paul is talking about insight into the eschatological reality God will bring about. He seems to see salvation happening in three stages: rejection by Jews, acceptance by the full number of the Gentiles, and then all Israel will be saved.*

*– Ben Witherington III,  
Asbury Theological Seminary*



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  1. Israel has become partially and temporarily "hardened," that is deadened or insensible (Witherington) in unbelief.
  2. The fullness "full number" (NIV) of the Gentiles will come to faith in Israel's Messiah.
  3. All Israel will be saved. That is, there will be a spiritual revival within ethnic Israel after the full number of Gentiles is reached.

## 5. The Mystery 11:25-36



*God has determined to save a certain number of Gentiles, and only when that number has been reached will Israel's hardening be removed. The "fullness of Israel" (v. 12) is therefore matched by a "fullness of the Gentiles."*

*– Douglas Moo,  
Wheaton Graduate School*

## 5. The Mystery 11:25-36

- Paul is so amazed by these truths he has just revealed to us that all he can do is end in worship.
- God's plan involves mercy and blessing toward all the nations of the earth.

# God's Gracious Plan **Conclusions**



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- **Genesis 12:1-3** (ESV)

<sup>1</sup> Now the LORD said to Abram, "Go from your country and your kindred and your father's house to the land that I will show you. <sup>2</sup> And I will make of you a great nation, and I will bless you and make your name great, so that you will be a blessing. <sup>3</sup> I will bless those who bless you, and him who dishonors you I will curse, and in you all the families of the earth shall be blessed."

# God's Gracious Plan **Conclusions**

- Israel is something of a test case.
- Their place in God's plan is unique among the nations.
- Other nations have followed the same pattern.
- **The gospel is only partially received and then loosely held.**

# God's Gracious Plan **Conclusions**

- God's only national "**Chosen People**" is Israel.
- We non-Jews are grafted in.
- If God chooses to use, for example, the USA, he may do so, but he has put himself under no obligation to bless us.
- If our Christianity diminishes, so does our usefulness for God.

# God's Gracious Plan **Conclusions**

- God keeps his promises. He still has a plan for Israel.
- He still has a plan for us. This may or may not be national, but we know that he will accept us as individuals.
- We need not fear being rejected once we have united ourselves with Christ by faith.

# God's Gracious Plan **Conclusions**

- All people who receive the gospel are united with Christ by faith, but also united with one another in God's family.
- We unite across ethnic boundaries.
- We can also see the culturally churched and unchurched come together in one congregation.

# God's Gracious Plan Conclusions

Unity in diversity is not only possible,  
it is part of God's gracious plan.

# God's Gracious Plan **Conclusions**

- Key verses: **Romans 1:16-17** (ESV)

<sup>16</sup> For I am not ashamed of the gospel, for it is the power of God for salvation to everyone who believes, to the Jew first and also to the Greek. <sup>17</sup> For in it the righteousness of God is revealed from faith for faith, as it is written, "The righteous shall live by faith."