

The Mercy Underneath

Rejected • Reclaimed • Riches • Recall

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 14

Rejected and Reclaimed

Online • 7:00 p.m. • RightNow Session 7 • Romans 11:28–29,32

THE TEXT

28 As regards the gospel, they are enemies for your sake. But as regards election, they are beloved for the sake of their forefathers.

29 For the gifts and the calling of God are irrevocable.

32 For God has consigned all to disobedience, that he may have mercy on all. (Romans 11, ESV)

ametamelētos <ah-met-ah-MEL-ay-tos> ἀμεταμέλητος greek word of the week

Irrevocable. Not regretted, not taken back. The word in verse 29, said about people who were at that moment rejecting Him.

1. Rejected verse 28

The strange pairing. Regarding the gospel they are enemies. Regarding election they are beloved. Paul holds both in one sentence without blinking.

The open door. Israel's rejection is what made room for the Gentiles. Everybody in this room came in through a door somebody else was standing outside of.

Was there ever a point in your life when you rejected the gospel? What changed you from an enemy of it to a recipient of it?

“Somebody’s no made room for your yes.”

Dr. Brandon McCrae

2. Reclaimed verses 29 through 32

Irrevocable. The gifts and the calling of God are irrevocable. That word means God does not take it back, and it is said about people who were currently rejecting Him.

The interplay. Verse 30. Jews and Gentiles both have access to the same mercy, and both arrived there through disobedience.

What has God given you that you have been quietly afraid He might take back?

“God has never once asked for a gift back.”

Dr. Brandon McCrae

BEFORE WE GO

Carry it home. Read Romans 11:33–36 out loud before Sunday. Out loud, not silently.

Next. Sunday, October 18. Equipping Hour, 9:15 a.m.

Riches and Recall

Equipping Hour · 9:15–10:15 a.m. · Romans 11:33–36 and 12:1a

THE TEXT

- 33 Oh, the depth of the riches and wisdom and knowledge of God! How unsearchable are his judgments and how inscrutable his ways!
- 34 For who has known the mind of the Lord, or who has been his counselor?
- 35 Or who has given a gift to him that he might be repaid?
- 36 For from him and through him and to him are all things. To him be glory forever. Amen. (ESV)

oun <OON> οὐν greek word of the week

Therefore. The word waiting at 12:1. Everything in this chapter is what it points back to.

1. Riches *verses 33 through 35*

The explosion. Verse 33 is not a new topic. It is what happens to a man who has just finished thinking about mercy. The argument does not conclude. It erupts.

Unsearchable. His judgments are unsearchable and His ways inscrutable. Not odd. Not strange. Past the reach of the mind that is trying to trace them.

When was the last time you were in awe of God's character rather than grateful for God's help?

"Bible study that never becomes worship stopped short."

Dr. Brandon McCrae

2. Recall *verse 36 into 12:1a*

From, through, to. From Him, the source. Through Him, the means. To Him, the destination. There is nothing in your life that sits outside one of those three prepositions.

The Amen. It means so be it, most certainly, in truth. Paul is not closing a prayer. He is signing his name to an argument.

What has God already done for you that you would have to recall before you could obey Him?

"You cannot obey a therefore you never heard."

Dr. Brandon McCrae

BEFORE WE GO

Carry it home. Read Romans 12:1–2 every day this week. Same two verses, seven times.

Hymn of the month. Is Your All on the Altar. Stanza two.

Next. Wednesday, October 21, 7:00 p.m. online. RightNow Session 8, Romans 12:1–8.

Who's Who in Romans

THE PEOPLE

Paul (*PAWL*) An apostle. He did not start this church and had never set foot in it when he wrote to them.

Claudius (*KLAW-dee-us*) Roman emperor. Around A.D. 49 he expelled many Jews from Rome, emptying this church of most of its Jewish believers.

Nero (*NEE-roh*) The emperor after Claudius. He blamed the Christians for the fire that burned two-thirds of Rome.

Priscilla and Aquila (*prih-SIL-uh, uh-KWIL-uh*) A married couple put out of Rome under Claudius. Paul meets them in Corinth. Acts 18:2.

Chrestus (*KRES-tus*) The name in the Roman record of the riots, generally agreed to be a corruption of Christos. The fighting was about Jesus.

THE TWO GROUPS IN THE ROOM

Jews God's covenant people. The first believers in Rome were Jewish, converted at Pentecost and carrying the gospel home.

Gentiles (*JEN-tiles*) Everyone who is not Jewish. While the Jewish believers were exiled, this church became mostly Gentile. They came home to a room they did not recognize.

THE PLACES AND THE SPACES

Rome Capital of the empire. A church grew there with no apostle to plant it, so it had to be taught and disciplined from the start.

The house church There were no church buildings. They met in homes, which is how this church survived being scattered.

The altar The space this month stands on. A raised place where an animal was killed and burned. Everyone reading this letter had stood next to one.

THE TWO PICTURES

The olive tree (*Romans 11*) Branches broken off, a wild shoot grafted in. The tree is God's covenant people, the shoot is the Gentile believer. The root supports you, not you the root.

The living sacrifice (*Romans 12:1*) Every sacrifice they had watched ended in death. Paul asks for one that stays alive, and that is the difficulty this series is named after.

WORDS WORTH KNOWING

Therefore The word in Romans 12:1 pointing back to eleven chapters of what God has already done.

Apostle One sent with authority to speak for Christ. This church grew without one over it.

Doxology (*dok-SOL-uh-jee*) A burst of praise. Romans 11:33–36 is one, right before the therefore.

Consecrate (*KON-suh-krate*) To set something apart for God's use only.

THE GREEK, ONE WORD A WEEK

oun <OON> Therefore. A small word carrying everything said before it.

parakaleō <pah-rah-kah-LEH-oh> I urge you. Between commanding and beseeching. Paul could have ordered and chose to ask.

syschematizō / metamorphoō <soos-kay-mah-TID-zo, met-ah-mor-FO-oh> Conform and transform. The shape you take on, against what you actually are.

anakainōsis <ah-nah-KAI-no-sis> Renewal. A making new, not a repair of the old.

“Discipleship does not start with a command. It starts with a memory.”

Dr. Brandon McCrae

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