

Introduction



Talk about it

As we move into today's passage—a question:



Think about it

If you were “defense exhibit 1”, evidence for the reality of Christianity, what would you be an exhibit/evidence of?

11:1-10 God's present dealing with Israel—preserving a remnant amid rebellion

Questions

As we go through this section, try to understand the primary reasons Paul uses himself as an example—as evidence—of the faithfulness of God to His promise to Israel.

11:1-4

11:1-2 Paul, an illustration: the selection of a remnant by God

Paul—Defense Exhibit 1

So Paul is evidence of:

Mercy and grace in salvation rather than rejection

But also of God's plan for Israel and His faithfulness to His Word

“Foreknew”—(*proginosko*)—to know beforehand, choose beforehand (as in 8:29, the it is an aorist active indicative—something viewed as having been done)

11:3-4 OT prophets as an illustration: the selection of a remnant by God

The Prophets—Defense Exhibit 2

Paul supports his premise with a quote from 1 Kings 19:10, 14, 18

The Point: the majority of Israelites in Elijah's day, and by inference in Paul's day, are far from God. But God has preserved a remnant.

Summary

Even when we don't see or understand the plan, God is at work.

11:5-6 God's preservation of a remnant is by His gracious election, not works.

Can grace be over-taught? Over-emphasized?

Should we be careful in teaching grace?



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11:7-10 To further illustrate his point, Paul will provide quotes from all three parts of the Hebrew canon: the Law, the Prophets and the Writings—Isaiah 29:10, Deuteronomy 29:4 and Psalm 69:22-23

Summary



What do we learn
About God?

God is faithful to His promises but not blind to man's condition.

God has a plan for Israel, a plan that is gracious to His chosen people.

His promised blessing on Israel as a nation does not indicate that all Israel will be saved, only those graciously chosen.

Salvation is by grace; it is initiated by God.

The condition of man—sinful and rebellious against God—makes the provision of salvation even more amazing.



Act on it

How can you be an exhibit of the grace of God? This week?

What are you doing to avoid wandering?