

Aug 21, 2016



Oaks Early Risers Bible Class

**The Oaks
Baptist Church**
Grand Prairie, Texas

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FOOD FOR THOUGHT

THOUGHT FOR THE WEEK:

Our salvation is secure because God does the holding

PRAYER FOR THE WEEK:

He will never fail us, He will not forsake; His eternal covenant He will never break. Onward then, and fear not, children of the day; For His Word shall never, never pass away. —Havergal

SCRIPTURE FOR THE WEEK:

And it came to pass, when the sun went down and it was dark, that behold, there appeared a smoking oven and a burning torch that passed between those pieces

(Gen 15:17 NKJV)

(from "Our Daily Bread", May 9, 2014)

Series: Toward A New Salvation

UNIT: Life on God's Terms

NEXT WEEK

Love Fulfills the Law

(Matt 22:35-40; Rom 12:1-2;
Rom 13:8-10)

Grafted into the Promise Rom 11:11-24

Aim and Application of the Lesson

The lesson teaches how Gentiles have been **Grafted into the Promise**. The **study's aim** is to understand that God sovereignly blesses people of faith and disciplines those who should believe but do not. The **study's application** is to understand that we must become people of consistent and living faith to be in the place of blessing.

(Adapted from the Bible Expositor and Illuminator Commentary)

Lesson Introduction and Background

The larger context of this text concerns God's sovereign plan for His Old Testament people Israel as the New Testament era unfolds. Paul made several points of explanation concerning Israel but not without admonishing Gentiles as well. In this explanation we see both the "goodness and severity of God." The text provides an explanation, an illustration, and a warning. The severity of God, His judgment, fell on much of Israel because of their unbelief. The Lord Jesus presented Himself to His people, yet many did not receive Him. Israel stumbled and fell (cf. Rom. 11:11). Unbelief is a very dangerous thing. It is, of course, the absence of faith, the one thing necessary to be saved and to establish an eternal relationship with God. Given the example of many in Israel, we should all fear unbelief. The goodness of God, on the other hand, is seen in this. Through Israel's unbelief, the door was opened wider to the Gentiles so that all the nations might have free access to the gospel (cf. Rom. 11:15). The way of life is wide open to all humanity. But we are not to lose sight of the fact that saving faith is required. We must trust in the Lord Jesus Christ in order to be saved. A striking illustration of God's gracious plan is the picture of the branch being grafted into the olive tree (Rom. 11:17).

Gentiles, who were not at first a part of this olive tree, can now easily be grafted into the promise of salvation. And even those of Israel who end their unbelief are grafted in again for salvation (vs. 23). Israel is not hopelessly blocked in any way. The way of salvation is open to all, Jews and Gentiles, through saving faith in the Lord Jesus Christ. Finally, there is a warning in the text. Paul stated that the goodness of God's salvation can be received but that it involves true faith. We must believe and "continue in his goodness," that is, be fully convinced of God's goodness in salvation. We must look to Him with true saving faith. Without this there is no hope, and we are cut off from the promise of salvation. We dare not regard this matter casually. God is pleased to save anyone who leaves unbelief behind. God will graft them into the promise of salvation. All should realize, however, that the wonderfully wide offer of salvation should not be presumed on. Just because it is a wide and free offer of salvation does not mean we possess it automatically. Each person must diligently seek the gift of salvation and place total faith and trust in the Lord Jesus. We cannot presume on God's goodness, and we must also fear His severity. So this text is a wonderful yet sobering word. The way of salvation is wide open to all who will seek it. Yet the severity and judgment of God will fall on those who do not properly esteem it and thus fail to seek it. They will be cut off and will fail to receive the promise of salvation

(Adapted from the Bible Expositor and Illuminator Commentary)

In Romans 9, the apostle Paul began to discuss a situation that distressed him greatly: the unbelief of his fellow Jews. In last week's lesson we saw him recap the scriptural history of Israel to demonstrate that God controlled the nation's future. While we may not understand why God chooses certain nations and people as his instruments (Isaiah 7:18-20; etc.), Paul warned against considering God to be unjust in those decisions (Romans 9:14). In the text just preceding that of today's lesson, Paul asked and answered two questions concerning Israel. First, "Did God reject his people?" No, Paul said, that cannot possibly be true (Romans 11:1). He supported his conclusion with a theme common in the Old Testament prophets: that God had preserved a "remnant" of faithful Israelites (Romans 11:5; compare Isaiah 10:21). Paul considered himself to be part of that remnant. Second, why didn't more Jews believe in Jesus, as Paul did? His answer was that God had "hardened" many of the people of Israel in a way that precluded belief (Romans 11:7, 8). The apostle pointed out that this was nothing new for the people of Israel, and he quoted Scriptures to show this historical pattern of unbelief (a mixing of Deuteronomy 29:4; Psalm 69:22, 23; and Isaiah 29:10).

(Adapted from the NIV Standard Lesson Commentary)

NOTES AND CROSS-REFERENCES

Grafting Allowed by Israel's Jealous Rejection (Rom 11:11-14)

To provide salvation of the world (11-12)

Salvation of the world that comes from the sanctification (Acts 26:16-18)

Salvation of the world for those who believe (Rom 1:16)

Salvation of the world for those baptized in Jesus (Gal 3:26-29)

Salvation of the world through the gospel (Eph 3:6)

Salvation of the world because God wants everyone to come to repentance (2 Peter 3:9)

Salvation of the world because God wants all men to be saved (1 Tim 2:1-4)

Salvation of the world because God's grace brings salvation before all men (Titus 2:11)

To provide the return of the Jews (13-14)

Returning to God brings restoral (Deut 30:2-3)

Returning to God brings answered prayers, mercy and forgiveness from God (1 Kings 8:47-50)

Returning to God brings healing (2 Chron 7:14)

Returning to God will result in growth in knowing God (Jer 24:7)

Returning to God could bring blessings from Him (Joel 2:13-14)

Returning to God brings mercy and prosperity (Prov 28:13)

Grafting to Partake of the Divine Source (Rom 11:15-21)

Partakers of reconciliation (15-16)

Reconciliation through justification (Rom 5:1-2)

Reconciliation through Jesus' death (Rom 5:10)

Reconciliation that brings peace (Eph 2:14-16)

Reconciliation through Jesus' blood (Col 1:19-22)

Reconciliation through forgiveness of sins (Heb 2:17)

Partakers of God's sustainment (17-18)

God sustains by upholding those who fall (Ps 37:23-24)

God sustains from birth (Ps 71:6)

God sustains through a willing spirit (Ps 51:12)

God sustains because He will never forsake His own (Ps 55:22)

God sustains because He promised to do so (Ps 119:116)

God sustains because He always finishes what He starts (Phil 1:6)

Partakers through faith (19-21)

Faith in the power of God (John 11:14-15)

Faith in the word of God (John 20:30-31)

Faith in God's indwelling presence (Exod 4:4-5)

Faith in Jesus as the Son of God (John 19:34-35)

Grafting Through the Power of God (Rom 11:22-24)

Power motivated by goodness (22)

Goodness that endures forever (Ps 107:1)

Goodness because He is faithful to His promises (Ps 25:8-10)

Goodness because He is longsuffering (Exodus 34:6)

Goodness because He is forgiving (Ps 86:5)

Goodness because He does good (Ps 119:68)

Power to fulfill promises (23-24)

Promises that are always "YES" in Jesus (2 Cor 1:20)

Promises made with the Divine power (2 Peter 1:3-4)

Promises that are only being completely satisfied in the present age (Heb 11:13-16)

Promises of an eternal life (1 John 2:24-25)

God is faithful to His promises (Heb 10:23)