**How Unsearchable are His Judgments**

**by Pastor Fee Soliven**

**Romans 11:28-36**

**Wednesday Evening**

**January 29, 2025**

**Romans 11:28-36**

28 Concerning the gospel they are enemies for your sake, but concerning the election they are beloved for the sake of the fathers. 29 For the gifts and the calling of God are irrevocable. 30 For as you were once disobedient to God, yet have now obtained mercy through their disobedience,

31 even so these also have now been disobedient, that through the mercy shown you they also may obtain mercy. 32 For God has committed them all to disobedience, that He might have mercy on all. 33 Oh, the depth of the riches both of the wisdom and knowledge of God! How unsearchable are His judgments and His ways past finding out!

34 "For who has known the mind of the LORD? Or who has become His counselor?" 35 "Or who has first given to Him And it shall be repaid to him?" 36 For of Him and through Him and to Him are all things, to whom be glory forever. Amen.

**28 Concerning the gospel they are enemies for your sake, but concerning the election they are beloved for the sake of the fathers.**

Saints, Paul is still speaking to the Gentiles in his audience. In order for God to bring the gospel to them, he had to set the Jews aside—as if they were his enemies for having rejected the Good News.

**2 Corinthians 3:13-16**

13 unlike Moses, who put a veil over his face so that the children of Israel could not look steadily at the end of what was passing away. 14 But their minds were blinded. For until this day the same veil remains unlifted in the reading of the Old Testament, because the veil is taken away in Christ.

15 But even to this day, when Moses is read, a veil lies on their heart. 16 Nevertheless when one turns to the Lord, the veil is taken away.

But as far as God’s choice, his election, is concerned, the Jews are still his chosen people because of his promises to Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob.

**John 15:15-19**

15 No longer do I call you servants, for a servant does not know what his master is doing; but I have called you friends, for all things that I heard from My Father I have made known to you. 16 You did not choose Me, but I chose you and appointed you that you should go and bear fruit, and that your fruit should remain, that whatever you ask the Father in My name He may give you.

17 These things I command you, that you love one another. 18 "If the world hates you, you know that it hated Me before it hated you. 19 If you were of the world, the world would love its own. Yet because you are not of the world, but I chose you out of the world, therefore the world hates you.

Because God chose those men through whom he would carry out his promises, he will keep his promises to their descendants.

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

Saints, the privileges and invitation given to Israel can never be withdrawn.

**Isaiah 54:10**

For the mountains shall depart And the hills be removed, But My kindness shall not depart from you, Nor shall My covenant of peace be removed," Says the LORD, who has mercy on you.

God will not take back his gifts or withdraw his call. He will keep his promises.

**Numbers 23:19-20**

19 "God is not a man, that He should lie, Nor a son of man, that He should repent. Has He said, and will He not do? Or has He spoken, and will He not make it good? 20 Behold, I have received a command to bless; He has blessed, and I cannot reverse it.

While God will not take back what he has offered, we are certainly able to reject it.

Paul is making an application from God’s characteristic faithfulness to the Jews that anyone can rely on.

**2 Timothy 2:13**

If we are faithless, He remains faithful; He cannot deny Himself.

God will do what he promises.

**Malachi 3:6**

"For I am the LORD, I do not change; Therefore you are not consumed, O sons of Jacob”

**30 For as you were once disobedient to God, yet have now obtained mercy through their disobedience,**

Saints, the Gentiles were rebels before they knew God, but they received God’s mercy and offer of salvation because of Israel’s disobedience.

Having received from God something that they had lacked previously, they could expect to keep on enjoying God’s mercy.

**Ephesians 2:1-5**

1 And you He made alive, who were dead in trespasses and sins, 2 in which you once walked according to the course of this world, according to the prince of the power of the air, the spirit who now works in the sons of disobedience,

3 among whom also we all once conducted ourselves in the lusts of our flesh, fulfilling the desires of the flesh and of the mind, and were by nature children of wrath, just as the others. 4 But God, who is rich in mercy, because of His great love with which He loved us, 5 even when we were dead in trespasses, made us alive together with Christ (by grace you have been saved)…

By the same logic, however, the Jews could also expect God to be consistent with his promises, even though they had, for a time, rejected his mercy.

**Titus 3:3-7**

3 For we ourselves were also once foolish, disobedient, deceived, serving various lusts and pleasures, living in malice and envy, hateful and hating one another. 4 But when the kindness and the love of God our Savior toward man appeared,

5 not by works of righteousness which we have done, but according to His mercy He saved us, through the washing of regeneration and renewing of the Holy Spirit, 6 whom He poured out on us abundantly through Jesus Christ our Savior, 7 that having been justified by His grace we should become heirs according to the hope of eternal life.

**31 even so these also have now been disobedient, that through the mercy shown you they also may obtain mercy.**

Saints, from Paul’s time onward, Israel has been rebellious to God because of their refusal to accept salvation in Christ.

Though they began with an advantage due to God’s gracious choice of them as his people, by being disobedient, the Jews had proved themselves equally needing God’s mercy.

**Ephesians 2:12-13**

12 that at that time you were without Christ, being aliens from the commonwealth of Israel and strangers from the covenants of promise, having no hope and without God in the world. 13 But now in Christ Jesus you who once were far off have been brought near by the blood of Christ.

And Israel will receive mercy because as soon as all the elect of the Gentiles have come, then God’s mercy will again be directed to Israel.

In these verses, Paul shows how the Jews and the Gentiles benefit each other.

Whenever God shows mercy to one group, the other shares the blessing.

In God’s original plan, the Jews would be the source of God’s blessing to the Gentiles.

When the Jews neglected this mission, God blessed the Gentiles anyway through the Jewish Messiah.

He still maintained his love for the Jews because of his promises to Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob.

But someday the faithful Jews will share in God’s mercy.

**32 For God has committed them all to disobedience, that He might have mercy on all.**

Saints, when Adam sinned, all humanity sinned with him. We are all sinners.

When people choose to follow their own passion and desires, they are imprisoned in their disobedience.

People who deliberately choose to disobey God imprison themselves. It is those who understand that they have been saying no to God who are in the best position to say yes to him.

God then is willing to have mercy on all who come to him. For a beautiful picture of Jews and Gentiles experiencing rich blessings, see Isaiah 60.

**Galatians 3:22-25**

22 But the Scripture has confined all under sin, that the promise by faith in Jesus Christ might be given to those who believe. 23 But before faith came, we were kept under guard by the law, kept for the faith which would afterward be revealed. 24 Therefore the law was our tutor to bring us to Christ, that we might be justified by faith. 25 But after faith has come, we are no longer under a tutor.

**33 Oh, the depth of the riches both of the wisdom and knowledge of God! How unsearchable are His judgments and His ways past finding out!**

Saints, here Paul bursts into a song of praise as he concludes his entire treatise in chapters 1–11 on God’s sovereign plan for our salvation.

**Isaiah 55:8-9**

8 "For My thoughts are not your thoughts, Nor are your ways My ways," says the LORD. 9 "For as the heavens are higher than the earth, So are My ways higher than your ways, And My thoughts than your thoughts.

**Job 11:7-9**

7 "Can you search out the deep things of God? Can you find out the limits of the Almighty? 8 They are higher than heaven--what can you do? Deeper than Sheol--what can you know? 9 Their measure is longer than the earth And broader than the sea.

It is impossible for us to understand.

**34 "For who has known the mind of the LORD? Or who has become His counselor?"**

Saints, Paul pointing out that God alone knows the plan.

**Proverbs 30:4**

4 Who has ascended into heaven, or descended? Who has gathered the wind in His fists? Who has bound the waters in a garment? Who has established all the ends of the earth? What is His name, and what is His Son's name, If you know?

**Job 38:4-6**

4 "Where were you when I laid the foundations of the earth? Tell Me, if you have understanding. 5 Who determined its measurements? Surely you know! Or who stretched the line upon it? 6 To what were its foundations fastened? Or who laid its cornerstone…

**Ecclesiastes 3:11-13**

11 He has made everything beautiful in its time. Also He has put eternity in their hearts, except that no one can find out the work that God does from beginning to end. 12 I know that nothing is better for them than to rejoice, and to do good in their lives, 13 and also that every man should eat and drink and enjoy the good of all his labor--it is the gift of God.

In his unsearchable wisdom he designed it. No human being was, is, or will ever be involved in giving him advice or making new suggestions

**35 "Or who has first given to Him And it shall be repaid to him?"**

Saints, then Paul quotes loosely from Job 41:11 to point out that God is in sovereign control. He is not in our debt, we are in his!

**Job 41:11**

Who has preceded Me, that I should pay him? Everything under heaven is Mine.

**Acts 17:25-27**

25 Nor is He worshiped with men's hands, as though He needed anything, since He gives to all life, breath, and all things. 26 And He has made from one blood every nation of men to dwell on all the face of the earth, and has determined their preappointed times and the boundaries of their dwellings,

27 so that they should seek the Lord, in the hope that they might grope for Him and find Him, though He is not far from each one of us;

**36 For of Him and through Him and to Him are all things, to whom be glory forever. Amen.**

Saints, God is the Creator, Sustainer, and Omega of all life. Everything comes from him and is for him to use for his glory.

God is almighty and all-powerful, but even more, he cares for us personally. No person or power can compare with God.

**Colossians 1:16-18**

16 For by Him all things were created that are in heaven and that are on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or principalities or powers. All things were created through Him and for Him. 17 And He is before all things, and in Him all things consist. 18 And He is the head of the body, the church, who is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead, that in all things He may have the preeminence.

Paul began his letter with the statement that God left his imprint on the world he created, but that the human beings of that creation had chosen rebellion.

**Revelation 4:11**

"You are worthy, O Lord, To receive glory and honor and power; For You created all things, And by Your will they exist and were created."

In the past eleven chapters, Paul has examined God’s marvelous plan for bringing the rebels home.

God has chosen to “have mercy on everyone”

What more can any believer, saved by grace, say than, to him be glory evermore. Amen.

Soon and Very soon, Jesus is about to appear, we are almost out of here!

**1 Thessalonians 4:13-18**

13 But I do not want you to be ignorant, brethren, concerning those who have fallen asleep, lest you sorrow as others who have no hope. 14 For if we believe that Jesus died and rose again, even so God will bring with Him those who sleep in Jesus.

15 For this we say to you by the word of the Lord, that we who are alive and remain until the coming of the Lord will by no means precede those who are asleep. 16 For the Lord Himself will descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of an archangel, and with the trumpet of God. And the dead in Christ will rise first.

17 Then we who are alive and remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air. And thus we shall always be with the Lord. 18 Therefore comfort one another with these words.

**1 Corinthians 15:50-54**

50 Now this I say, brethren, that flesh and blood cannot inherit the kingdom of God; nor does corruption inherit incorruption. 51 Behold, I tell you a mystery: We shall not all sleep, but we shall all be changed-- 52 in a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trumpet. For the trumpet will sound, and the dead will be raised incorruptible, and we shall be changed.

53 For this corruptible must put on incorruption, and this mortal must put on immortality. 54 So when this corruptible has put on incorruption, and this mortal has put on immortality, then shall be brought to pass the saying that is written: "Death is swallowed up in victory."

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**Acts 2:38-39**

38 Then Peter said to them, "Repent, and let every one of you be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins; and you shall receive the gift of the Holy Spirit. 39 For the promise is to you and to your children, and to all who are afar off, as many as the Lord our God will call."

**Let’s Pray!**

**Benediction**

**"May The LORD bless you and keep you, May The LORD make His face shine upon you, May The LORD be gracious to you, May The LORD lift up His countenance upon you, and give you His (Shalom) peace.”**