

**Prayer:**

**Slide # 1**  
**Romans**

**Theme:** The Righteousness of God – The Gospel of God

**Outline:**

- **Prologue:** 1:1-17
- **Doctrinal:** 1:18-8:39  
God’s holiness – man’s sinfulness – 1:18-3:20  
Justification by grace through faith – 3:21-5:21  
Sanctification of the believer – 6:1-8:39
- **Dispensational: 9:1-11:36** (The place of Israel and the church)
- **Practical:** 12:1-15:33 (Duties and privileges of the believer)
- **Epilogue:** 16:1-27

Romans presents the most systematic presentation of how to get right with God found in the Bible. The overarching emphasis is the righteousness of God which is acquired by faith.

Paul’s entire life and calling as a saved person was “**to testify to the gospel of the grace of God**” as he says in Acts 20:24. His special calling was that of being “**an apostle to the Gentiles**” (Rom. 11:13) and yet his ministry also included reaching out to “**the children of Israel**” (Acts 9:15).

Even though he was an apostle to the Gentiles yet Paul also had a special burden in his heart for Israel. He begins the book in Romans 1 by emphasizing the gospel is “**the power of God to salvation for everyone who believes**” but then makes special note saying, “**for the Jew first and also for the Greek**” (Rom. 1:16). The special place of PRIORITY in Paul’s mind and heart was to the Jew. And this is consistent with the plan and heart of God.

Paul in Romans 9 -11 begins each chapter by emphasizing his passion for Israel. In Rom. 9:3 he says he wishes that he could be accursed for the sake of his fellows Jews; in 10:1 he says his desire and prayer to God for Israel is that they may be saved; and in Rom. 11:1-2 he emphatically states that God is not done with Israel.

In fact, the essence of the entire chapter of Romans 11 is devoted to showing that God is not through with Israel. Here Paul shows that Israel's fall is partial and not total, and that it is temporary and not permanent.

In short, the message of Romans 11 is that GOD IS NOT DONE WITH ISRAEL! We live in the last days and what God is doing in relation to Israel is setting the stage for the last days FINALE. GOD IS NOT DONE WITH ISRAEL.

At the end of Romans 10 the emphasis is that Israel has rejected God in spite of His hands being outstretched to them all the day long. Well, the logical question then is this: Since Israel has for so long consistently rejected God, has God in turn rejected them? Paul's answer in Romans 11 is an emphatic NO!

### **Romans 11:1–6 (NKJV)**

**1 I say then, has God cast away His people? Certainly not! For I also am an Israelite, of the seed of Abraham, of the tribe of Benjamin.**

This is a rhetorical question that in the Greek expects a negative response in the strongest form possible. "**Cast away**" is literally the idea of "**to thrust away**". It is often translated as "**rejected**". In the background Paul has repeatedly been bringing up the issue of where Israel now stands with God.

### **Slide # 2**

#### **Romans 3:3 (LSB)**

**3** What then? If some did not believe, **does their unbelief abolish the faithfulness of God?**

#### **Romans 9:6 (LSB)**

**6** But **it is not as though the word of God has failed**. For they are not all Israel who are descended from Israel;

Because of their chronic rebellion has God cancelled Israel? Does their unfaithfulness abolish God's faithfulness? Has the Word of God failed in relation to the glorious promises made to her? Has God rejected Israel because of her ongoing rejection of Him?

Paul's dogmatic answer is "**Certainly not!**" That would nullify God's covenant promises to the patriarchs; it would nullify both the Abrahamic covenant and the Davidic Covenant. This is impossible!

Yes, God has temporarily set national Israel aside, but as Paul will show there is still a remnant of true believers. And furthermore, this is not the end of the story as in the end “all Israel” will yet be saved” as noted towards the end of the chapter.

Paul then presents 3 KEY arguments to show that God has not permanently CAST AWAY His people Israel (cf. 1 Sam. 12:22; Ps. 94:14).

**Exhibit “A”** is Paul himself. He was a Jew! God is still saving Jews of which he was one. The fact that God is still saving Jews PROVES He is not entirely done with Israel. They still fit into His plan.

Paul says, “***I also am an Israelite, of the seed of Abraham, of the tribe of Benjamin***” (cf. Phil. 3:5). Every true blood Jew traces their heritage back to Abraham and to one of the 12 tribes of Israel.

This shows very clearly that Paul here is talking about national Israel. Furthermore, at the end of the verse where he qualifies himself as being an Israelite of the seed of Abraham, of the tribe of Benjamin shows that the way Paul defined an Israelite is one who is physically and literally a descendant of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob who literally hails from one of the 12 tribes of Israel.

This is very important because so many today want to allegorize or spiritualize what the word “Israel” means. But consistency shows that God has not changed His definition of what defines a true “Israelite”.

### **Slide # 3**

An Israelite by believing on Christ can become a member of the Church, but becoming a member of the Church does not make a person an Israelite. A person is born an Israelite; a person is born again into the church. – **George Zeller**

**2 God has not cast away His people whom He foreknew. Or do you not know what the Scripture says of Elijah, how he pleads with God against Israel, saying,**

Paul for a second time in two verses emphatically affirms that God has not cast away His people. He is not forever done with Israel. But here Paul qualifies it by saying, “***whom He foreknew***” (cf. Rom. 8:29; 1 Pet. 1:2).

This word **foreknew** can simply mean “**to know beforehand**” but in context it means more than that here. To say that God simply “foreknew” what was going to happen in relation to Israel would be to say nothing special and would have no ramifications related to Him not casting them away. If it simply means “**knowing something in advance**”, well then, God foreknows all people, because He knows everything before it happens.

This is evidence that the foreknew here is not merely knowing beforehand but is **relational** in nature in the sense that God has previously determined a relationship with Israel. And because God has predetermined a relationship with Israel it is not possible that He will now reject them.

The word **KNOW** in the Bible is often used in a relational sense.

#### **Slide # 4**

##### **Genesis 4:1 (NKJV)**

1 Now Adam **knew** Eve his wife, and she conceived and bore Cain, and said, “I have acquired a man from the LORD.”

It is not that Adam merely KNEW about his wife intellectually! No! He KNEW her relationally; he knew her intimately. This very same word is used in reference to God knowing Israel in Amos 3:2.

#### **Slide # 5**

##### **Amos 3:2 (NKJV)**

2 “You only have I **known** of all the families of the earth; Therefore I will punish you for all your iniquities.”

##### **Amos 3:2 (NASB)**

2 “You only have I **chosen** among all the families of the earth; Therefore, I will punish you for all your iniquities.”

To “**foreknow**” in the context of Romans 11:2 means that God had sovereignly predetermined to have a relationship with Israel. This was His preordained plan! It was not an afterthought!

“**His people**” in both verse 1 and 2 refers to the nation of Israel nationally. God has a special plan for this nation and He is not going to give up on it or change it. God will see His plan through. What God foreknowingly determines He brings to pass.

**Slide # 6****Psalm 33:10–12 (NKJV)**

**10** The LORD brings the counsel of the nations to nothing; He makes the plans of the peoples of no effect.

**11** The **counsel of the LORD stands forever, The plans of His heart to all generations.**

**12** Blessed is **the nation** whose God is the LORD, **The people He has chosen** as His own inheritance.

The plans of the LORD shall stand forever! His plan for Israel has not changed!

Note that “cast away” (rejected) and foreknowledge are here used in a mutually exclusive way.

**Slide # 7**

Rejected (v. 2) is the functional opposite of foreknew, and indicates that God’s foreknowledge is not simple foretelling, but is active and brings about what is foreknown. – ***The Moody Bible Commentary***

God cannot cast away Israel because He has foreknown them. The possibility of casting away Israel would be like saying God can change His preordained sovereign plan which is impossible.

**Slide # 8****Malachi 3:6 (NKJV)**

**6** “For I am the LORD, **I do not change**; Therefore you are not consumed, O sons of Jacob.

God does not change and His plan does not change! What He has foreknown and foreordained for Israel will come to pass.

**Slide # 9****Jeremiah 31:37 (NKJV)**

**37** Thus says the LORD: “If heaven above can be measured, And the foundations of the earth searched out beneath, I will also **cast off all the seed of Israel** For all that they have done, says the LORD.

What God is saying is that this is NOT going to happen! The universe of the heavens cannot be measured, the foundations of the earth cannot be searched out, and neither is it possible for God to cast away His people Israel in spite of all that have done.

Yet, this is exactly what so-called REPLACEMENT THEOLOGY proposes. This theology came into the church during the time of **Augustine** who taught that some Scripture should be taken allegorically (or spiritually) instead of literally.

He taught that God is now done with Israel and so the promises made to them are now fulfilled spiritually in the Church. This became the standard teaching of the Catholic Church and when the Reformers came along they too kept this errant teaching. They did not reform everything. Consequently, to this day many of the mainline churches teach a form of replacement theology.

Luther lashed out against the Jews so vehemently that Hitler picked up this sentiment of Luther and used it with the churches in his day calling for the extinction of the entire Jewish race. The seeds of errant theology regarding Israel have been disastrous. And yet God ever remains sovereign.

### **Slide # 10**

Wherever replacement theology has flourished, the Jews have had to run for cover. – **Thomas Ice**

I can't tell you how blasphemous and how offensive is this idea that God is done with Israel. It defames the very character of God Who cannot lie. It says that God cannot really be trusted to carry out His covenant promises. God has forever eternally tied His sacred name (YHWH) to His covenant relationship with Israel. If God can break His covenant with Israel then nothing about the God of the Bible can be trusted. It upends everything and there is no assurance!

### **Slide # 11**

***How odd of God  
To choose the Jew,  
But not so odd  
As those who choose  
The Jewish God  
And hate the Jew.***

Paul now appeals to an OT example from Scripture to make his point that God has not abandoned His people, Israel. It comes from the experience of Elijah in 1 Kings 19.

Elijah ministered in some of the darkest days of apostasy in the OT during the reign of wicked king Ahab and his even more wicked wife named Jezebel. Idolatrous Baal worship was prominent. When wicked Jezebel said she was going to put Elijah to death he ran for his life. And in that place he felt all alone in his stand for God.

By the way that is one of the HARDEST things about “last days perilous times” (2 Tim. 3:1). They are days of apostasy when true believers are harder and harder to find. God’s people can often feel all alone!

That is why the bible exhorts us to not forsake the assembling “and so much the more as you see the Day approaching.” (Heb. 10:25). We need each other for strengthening. Elijah was a powerful voice for God and yet when he felt all alone he felt very discouraged and vulnerable.

In that condition he pleaded with God against Israel. In other words, instead of praying for them he turned to praying against Israel. He basically gave upon Israel – thinking they are too far gone. The language here indicates the Elijah at this point was making an indictment against Israel as evildoers and wanting God to take action against them.

**3 “LORD, they have killed Your prophets and torn down Your altars, and I alone am left, and they seek my life”?**

This is a quote from Elijah as found in 1 Kings 19:10 and 14. The situation appeared hopeless. The people appeared to be in total apostasy and spiritually unresponsive. They had killed God’s spokesman the prophets. They had torn down the altars used for worship of God. And now they wanted to kill Elijah – the last and only believer left as far as Elijah could see.

We sometimes refer to this as “*The Elijah Complex*” – “*I, and I alone am left.*” Elijah definitely felt all alone at this time! It was a very dark time.

**4 But what does the divine response say to him? “I have reserved for Myself seven thousand men who have not bowed the knee to Baal.”**

God’s answer to Elijah is found in 1 Kings 19:18.

**Slide # 12****1 Kings 19:18 (NKJV)**

**18** Yet I have reserved seven thousand in Israel, all whose knees have not bowed to Baal, and every mouth that has not kissed him.”

Note the emphasis here. God says, “***I have reserved seven thousand***”. This was God’s doing. He does not credit the 7000 with any inherent goodness, or for the boldness of their decision, or for their resolve to remain faithful. No, the emphasis here is singularly on God’s work of preserving this faithful remnant for Himself. The credit and glory goes to God ALONE. Note it carefully, God says, “***I have reserved***”. God did this!

God had reserved for Himself seven thousand men. Things were 7000 times better than Elijah had thought! Elijah had thought he was all alone but in fact there were 7000 others still standing for God and he didn’t even know it.

We don’t always know who is saved but God does.

**Slide # 13****2 Timothy 2:19 (NKJV)**

**19** Nevertheless the solid foundation of God stands, having this seal: “**The Lord knows those who are His,**” and, “Let everyone who names the name of Christ depart from iniquity.”

The word “Baal” means *Lord or Master*. This was a prominent idol god of the Canaanites and then later of the Assyrians and Babylonians. Baal was a fertility god who was believed to enable the earth and people to be productive.

**Slide # 14**

Baal worship was rooted in sensuality and involved ritualistic prostitution in the temples. At times, appeasing Baal required human sacrifice, usually the firstborn of the one making the sacrifice (Jeremiah 19:5). The priests of Baal appealed to their god in rites of wild abandon which included loud, ecstatic cries and self-inflicted injury (1 Kings 18:28). – ***Gotquestions.org***

During the time of Elijah, the Jews were largely given over to the worship of Baal.



Note that God characterized these 7000 who were reserved for Him as those “***who have not bowed the knee to Baal***”. To bow or bend the knee was an expression denoting worship. So, this is the language of worship (cf. Isa. 45:23; Phil. 2:10; Eph. 3:14)

These 7000 in their allegiance to God had not succumbed to Baal worship.

Often in the Bible true faith is associated with true worship. True believers are true worshipers and that is what is pictured here in Romans 11:4. What one worships defines the person – whether they are a true worshiper of the true God or an idolatrous worshiper of a false god.

### **Slide # 15**

#### **John 4:23 (NKJV)**

**23** But the hour is coming, and now is, when the **true worshipers** will worship the Father in spirit and truth; for **the Father is seeking such to worship Him.**

#### **Romans 10:13 (NKJV)**

**13** For “whoever **calls on the name of the LORD** shall be saved.”

Calling on the name of the LORD in the Bible is an act of worship. Again, we see the idea of truly **believing and worship** are closely connected. What one truly believes in one worships! Worship is the fruit of belief.

These 7000 true worshipers of the true God back here in Elijah’s day refused to be involved in Baal worship. They belonged to God. They were those whom God had sovereignly reserved for Himself.

Bowing the knee was a symbol of submission, a recognition of a spiritual lord. – ***Leon Morris***

The 7000 did not call on Baal as Lord, but rather recognized the true God of Israel as their God. Again, we note the true belief is a LORDSHIP issue.

The grace remnant demonstrated saving faith by not worshipping Baal. There was fruit in their lives showing the genuineness of their faith. Their ultimate allegiance was to God as is characteristically reflected in the lives of those who truly belong to God. It is how God defines those set apart to Him.

**5 Even so then, at this present time there is a remnant according to the election of grace.**

A remnant is a small representative group. God has always had a remnant of true believers among His chosen people – the Jews. No matter how dark the days of apostasy in the OT God always still had a remnant of true believers. And so, it is even at this present time. Most Jews to this day are unbelievers but there is a remnant of true believers.

The phrase “**there is**” is in the perfect tense indicating completed action with continuing results. This means there has been and continues to be a remnant according to the election of grace.

This remnant Paul says is “**according to the election of grace.**” This is a strong statement on God’s sovereignty related to salvation. Woven throughout Romans and the NT Scriptures is the strand of God’s sovereignty interwoven with the strand of human responsibility.

**Slide # 16**

DIVINE SOVEREIGNTY...

**Romans 9:11 (NKJV)**

**11** (for the children not yet being born, nor having done any good or evil, that the purpose of God according to election might stand, not of works but of Him who calls),

HUMAN RESPONSIBILITY....

**Romans 10:21 (NKJV)**

**21** But to Israel he says: “All day long I have stretched out My hands To a disobedient and contrary people.”

DIVINE SOVEREIGNTY...

**Romans 11:5 (NKJV)**

**5** Even so then, at this present time there is a remnant according to the election of grace.

Having just strongly emphasized human responsibility at the end of Romans 10 and placing the onus of responsibility squarely on Israel, Paul now here at the beginning of Romans 11 emphasizes God’s sovereignty as the determining factor in salvation.

Everywhere you look in the Scriptures you consistently see this balance between divine sovereignty and human responsibility in relation to salvation.

Intellectually we want to make it one or the other, but both are true and they are true in such a way that we can't completely figure it out. In the end sovereignty trumps everything. It's all about God's ways and "**of Him and through Him, and to Him are all things**" (Rom. 11:33, 36). That is a lot of "Him" (God) in the mix. It's all about Him! And yet as the text says, His ways are past finding out (Rom. 11:33).

In Romans 11:4-5 the parallel to "**I have reserved for Myself**" is seen in "**the election of grace**".

### **Slide # 17**

v. 4 – I have reserved for Myself

v. 5 – the election of grace

In both cases the action is all on God's part. He reserves people, He elects on the basis of grace. This is all God!

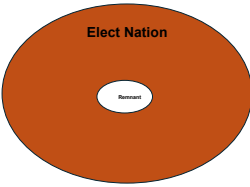
The word "**election**" simply means "**chosen**". The election of grace are the chosen of grace. God is the CHOOSER and the basis of His choice is GRACE! (cf. 1 Cor. 1:26-29) Both those terms (election and grace) are all about God!

Note those whom God **foreknew** in verses 1 and 2 relates to the nation of Israel, but the remnant according to the **election of grace** refers to a special elect group within the elect nation. The election of grace are saved people.

Israel being an elect nation does not mean that everyone within the nation is saved. It simply means God has sovereignly chosen the nation of Israel as a whole for His sovereign purposes.

However, the remnant within that nation who are **saved** are "**the election of grace**". This elect remnant are all saved. This is the same idea as seen in Romans 9:6 where Paul says, "**they are not all Israel who are of Israel**". The elect nation is not to be confused with the elect remnant of grace within the nation!

### **Slide # 18**



Why did God choose this remnant that are saved? Well, purely on the basis of GRACE. The sovereign choice of grace is based solely on grace.

As noted in Romans 9 “***the purpose of God according to election***” has nothing to do with anything the person does, whether it be good or bad. It is purely according to God’s sovereign choice. Grace is all God’s doing. Grace is all on the God side of things. We make no contribution in grace!

When you put election and grace together you have that which is totally God’s initiative. This rules out that God chooses people based on any works that they might do because that would not be according to grace.

### **Slide # 19**

This rules out the idea that God foreknows what people will do and chooses the elect on the basis of this foreknowledge of their works.

– ***Leon Morris***

If God chooses us based on any works that what we will do that completely undermines GRACE. But the text plainly says this is an “***election of grace***”. That puts the emphasis squarely upon God alone! The election of grace is those whom God has reserved for Himself. This is all God’s doing. It’s all grace (cf. 1 Cor. 1:26-29).

We don’t choose God, because left to ourselves “***There is none who seeks after God***” (Rom. 3:11). Grace by definition is totally that which is unearned and unmerited. There is nothing in us that makes us worthy or that merits grace. And that is the point – Grace is totally unmerited. So, God’s grace election is a choice based purely on unmerited favor! It is totally undeserved with no contributing factor. It’s all of GRACE!

### **Why Me** **Song by Kris Kristofferson**

Why me Lord  
What have I ever done

To deserve even one  
Of the blessings I've known

[NOTHING – it's all of GRACE!]

Why me Lord  
What did I ever do  
That was worth love from you  
And the kindness you've shown

NOHTHING – its all of GRACE!]

Try me Lord  
If you think there's a way  
That I can repay  
What I've taken from you

[NO – you can never repay – it's all GRACE!]

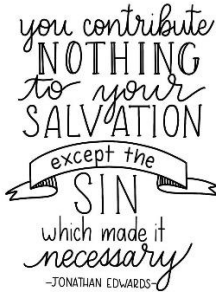
Lord help me, Jesus  
I've wasted it so  
Help me, Jesus  
I know what I am

[It's good to know what we are – but we also need to know WHO He is as the total Savior who saves by GRACE alone – its all of GRACE! – We deserve nothing but hell, we can never repay! All we can do (and that by grace) is BELIEVE and say THANK YOU!

As Paul says, “**by the grace of God I am what I am**” (1 Cor. 15:10). We owe it all to GRACE! If we are saved, all we are is a trophy of God's grace! We sing His praises and His alone! **Why me?** Well, it really defies explanation because it's all because of GRACE.

There is not a reason God should have chosen us other than what He purposed in GRACE! There is nothing in us that calls for it. It has everything to do with Him, and nothing to do with me. As we say, when it comes to salvation, “I do all the sinning, and He does all the saving!” It's all grace!

**Slide # 20**



### **Slide # 21**

#### **2 Timothy 1:9 (NKJV)**

**9** who has saved us and called us with a holy calling, not according to our works, but **according to His own purpose and grace** which was given to us in Christ Jesus before time began,

Right now, there is still an elect remnant of Jews that are being saved.

When I was at the IFCA conference I went to a session on Israel and the leader of the session said that amazing things are happening in Israel right now and that we think Oct 7 was so terrible (and it was) but at the same time they are seeing a movement of the Spirit among the Jews that they haven't seen before as many Jews are NOW getting saved.

God is still at work saving a remnant "at this present time." Sometimes, we get all flustered, perhaps even frightened, and perhaps even, like Elijah, become filled with despair. But through it all, God is still at work. He is still in the saving business, and He still has a remnant—even of the Jews.

Paul has brought forth 3 lines of reasoning that show God has not abandoned Israel.

- 1) Paul's own testimony proves there is a remnant.
- 2) God's foreknowing Israel – He has a plan – He will carry it out.
- 3) God's revelation to Elijah – He always has a grace remnant.

And then just to underscore the significance of what God means when He says, "**reserved for Myself**" corresponding to an "**election of grace**", Paul drives home the point that GRACE is the total exclusion of all works as seen in verse 6. This is the very nature of grace. This is all-important!

**6 And if by grace, then it is no longer of works; otherwise grace is no longer grace. But if it is of works, it is no longer grace; otherwise work is no longer work.**

The last sentence as seen in the NKJV is essentially a restatement in reverse order of what is found in the first sentence. The older manuscripts only have the shorter statement, but really the second line says the same thing – only in reverse order.

### **Slide # 22**

#### **Romans 11:6 (LSB)**

**6** But if it is by grace, it is no longer of works, otherwise grace is no longer grace.

This verse is a clarification.

Thomas Schriener says, “By ‘no longer,’ Paul doesn’t mean that salvation used to be by works, but now it’s by grace. He’s using ‘no longer’ in a logical sense, not chronological (Schreiner, p. 583). Leon Morris explains (p. 402), “Paul is saying that once we have come to see that salvation is by grace there is no longer any place for works.”

The Jews typically pursued a “works righteousness” (Rom. 10:3) and did not understand grace. So, Paul here emphatically interjects that grace and works are mutually exclusive. It’s one or the other but it can’t be both! Grace and works are opposites. And to add works to grace completely nullifies grace. There can be no compromise here! This is critical!

### **Slide # 23**

**GRACE** = unmerited favor, a gift

**WORKS** = what is done to merit achievement, self-effort

We are either saved by God’s grace ALONE or by our works, and the Scripture is blatantly clear that we are saved by God’s GRACE ALONE! Either something is FREE (Grace) or it COSTS (works). Either it is earned (WORKS) or it is a gift (GRACE). It can’t be both at the same time. The true gospel is above all the gospel of God’s grace (Acts 20:24). And grace is the exclusion of all works! A drop of works in an ocean of grace pollutes the entire ocean!

This is a hill to die on – so serious that Paul wrote the whole letter of Galatians to make this point.

### **Slide # 24**

**Galatians 1:6–9 (NKJV)**

**6** I marvel that you are turning away so soon from Him who called you in the **grace of Christ**, to a different gospel,  
**7** which is not another; but there are some who trouble you and want to pervert the **gospel of Christ**.  
**8** But even if we, or an angel from heaven, preach any **other gospel** to you than what we have preached to you, **let him be accursed**.  
**9** As we have said before, so now I say again, if anyone preaches any **other gospel** to you than what you have received, **let him be accursed**.

**Slide # 25****GRACE**

versus

**WORKS****(God's Doing)**

- Unmerited Favor
- Gift
- The Cross

**(Our Doing)**

- self effort
- rituals
- ordinances
- good works
- church involvement
- law keeping

**Slide # 26****WORKS****GRACE**

Or some form of works + \_\_\_\_\_

- Atheism/Agnosticism
- Catholicism
- Mormonism
- Jehovah witness
- Buddhism
- Confucianism
- Druze
- Gnosticism
- Hinduism
- Islam
- Jainism
- Judaism
- Rastafarianism
- Shinto
- Sikhism
- Zoroastrianism
- Traditional African Religions

- Christianity

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What Paul is saying is that once we come to see that salvation is by GRACE we no longer see any place for our works at all in terms of salvation. And this is what makes Christianity unique among all the religions of the world. It is a system of GRACE versus a system of WORKS!



If our works make any contribution whatsoever then there is no GRACE. Grace is an all or nothing proposition. Jesus paid all! It's all about Him! He gets all the glory! It's all Jesus! It's all grace!

Grace is so amazing – so otherly – so much a God thing that in our natural reasoning we never get it. Oh, people can intellectually understand what is being said, but apart from the Holy Spirit they never really believe it. The natural (unsaved) person “does not receive the things of the Spirit of God” (1 Cor. 2:14).

**Slide # 27**



That is GRACE! But I want you to note something here. Paul here in Romans 11:6 contrasts grace and works but he does not contrast grace and faith. And the reason for this is that faith is according to grace not contrary to it. Law and works are a package as is grace and faith!

**Slide # 28**

***Law and Works***

Versus

***Grace and Faith***

Grace and faith is always a package. Grace emphasizes the God side of things while faith intersects with human responsibility. All the way through Romans Paul has emphasized the obedience of faith, justification by faith, and the righteousness of faith. That is not in conflict with grace.

Because salvation is by GRACE some say that even saying that people must believe is a work. But the Bible does not define faith as a work. Wanting to protect grace from the act of faith, some say that regeneration comes before faith, but the Bible does not say that. It gets to the point where some believe that even babies can have faith even though they have no knowledge – and that is why they baptize babies.

The reason they hold to this is because they believe God just gives people the gift of faith and that being the case He can do that for babies too. But again, that is not what the Bible says.

The Bible actually says that God desires “***all men to be saved and to come to the knowledge of the truth***” (1 Tim. 2:4). Saving faith involves having the knowledge of the truth and then believing it. That requires one having the wherewithal to know and then believe the truth. Little babies have not yet reached the condition of accountability because they don’t even have the ability to believe!

But this idea that God just zaps people with the gift of faith is widely held by those of the reformed faith who champion GRACE. A favorite text they appeal to is Eph. 2:8-9.

### **Slide # 29**

#### **Ephesians 2:8–9 (NKJV)**

**8** For by grace you have been saved through faith, and that not of yourselves; **it** is the gift of God,

**9** not of works, lest anyone should boast.

They want to say that “it” here refers to faith and not to salvation. However, even John Calvin saw through this.

### **Slide # 30**

And here we must advert to a very common error in the interpretation of this passage. Many persons restrict the word gift to faith alone. But Paul is only repeating in other words the former sentiment. His meaning is, not that faith is the gift of God, but that salvation is given to us by God, or that we obtain it by the gift of God. – **John Calvin**

What is in view is the whole discussion of God’s sovereignty in tension with human responsibility. Underneath it all is the grace of God; and yet, that does not negate human responsibility, nor human response. In Romans 9:32 Paul asks WHY Israel has not attained righteousness and then answers by saying, “Because they did not seek it by faith”.

All the glory goes to God; and yet, human response is involved. There is balance and mystery here. I think the wording in Ephesians 2:8-9 maintains the perfect balance of these tensions.

**Slide # 31**

Grace is God's part, faith ours. And *that* is neuter, not feminine and so refers not to faith or to grace (feminine also), but to the act of being saved by grace conditioned on faith on our part.

– A.T. Robertson

It is important to understand that the response of faith in the New Testament is not seen as something that is contrary to grace – rather, it is in perfect keeping with grace. And this is completely consistent with what Paul has said earlier in the book.

**Slide # 32****Romans 4:4–5 (NKJV)**

**4** Now to him who works, the wages are not counted as grace but as debt.

**5** But to him who does not work but believes on Him who justifies the ungodly, his faith is accounted for righteousness,

**Romans 4:16 (NKJV)**

**16** Therefore it is of faith that it might be according to grace, so that the promise might be sure to all the seed, not only to those who are of the law, but also to those who are of the faith of Abraham, who is the father of us all

Grace and faith are partners not adversaries. Grace emphasizes the God side of things and this drives everything, and yet faith emphasizes human response and human responsibility, hence the obedience of faith!

But exactly how divine sovereignty and human responsibility – how grace and faith harmonize remains a mystery.

**Slide # 33**

We follow on while he draws us, glad to obey the voice which once we had despised. But the gist of the matter lies in the turning of the will. How that is done no flesh knoweth; it is one of those mysteries that is clearly perceived as a fact, but the cause of which no tongue can tell, and no heart can guess. - **C.H. Spurgeon**, in a sermon entitled “Human Inability” – preached on 3/7/1858

The Jews did not understand that the way to be right with God is on the basis of faith alone which is based on the grace of God alone. They missed the truth that salvation is by grace alone through faith alone in Christ alone!

**Slide # 34**

***Saving faith TRUSTS in the grace of God alone (Christ) for salvation and not in myself or anything that I can do!***

It all comes down to what a person is trusting in! This is the ultimate issue!

**Many years ago** during a British conference on comparative religions, experts from around the world debated what, if any, belief was unique to the Christian faith. The debate went on for some time until C. S. Lewis wandered into the room. "***What's the rumpus about?***" he asked, and heard in reply that his colleagues were discussing Christianity's unique contribution among world religions. Lewis responded, "***Oh, that's easy. It's grace.***"

EXACTLY!!

If you are here without Christ today the Bible exhorts you "***not to receive the grace of God in vain***" (2 Cor. 6:1). You must receive the truth of Christ from the heart by faith.

**Romans 10:10 (NKJV)**

**10** For with the heart one believes unto righteousness, and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation.

Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ and you will be saved!