

At the start of the Reformation of the Church in Scotland in 1557, John Knox wrote to his congregation before going into exile and said,

“You are bishops and kings; your wife, children, servants, and family are your bishopric and charge. Of you it shall be required how carefully and diligently you have instructed them in God’s true knowledge . . .

And therefore I say, you must make them partakers in, exhorting, and in making common prayers, which I would in every house were used once a day at least.”

Let’s Worship God

24th-29th June 2013
Romans



Let's Worship God is a ministry of



Airdrie Reformed Presbyterian Church

airdrierpcs.org, 01236 620107
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Family worship, a joy to be experienced every day!



Mon.
24th June

Let's Worship God

Verse To Learn

What then shall we say
to these things?
If God is for us,
who can be against us?
Romans 8:31

reading Romans 11:1-7 - Elijah

notes Many of the Jews are cast off, but not all. There is a chosen remnant of believing Jews, that obtain righteousness and life by faith in Jesus Christ. These are those whom God foreknew, whom He loved before the world was made. They are called the elect (verse 7), God's chosen ones. Believers are the elect, all those and those only whom God has chosen. Paul says that he himself is one of these Jewish believers.

Paul suggests that as in Elijah's time, so now, God's grace is limited to a remnant but this chosen remnant is really greater than you would think. The rulers of Israel are persecuting believers, the majority of Israelites worship idols, and the few that are faithful to God are crushed and driven into hiding. Elijah makes the mistake of thinking that he is the only faithful servant God has left in the world. But God answers Elijah, and from His answer we learn three things. First, things are often much better with the church of God than wise and good men think they are. We are ready to give up hope sometimes when there is hope. Second, in times of general unbelief, there is usually a remnant that stays faithful. Third, it is God that keeps that remnant faithful. If He had left them to themselves, they would have gone with the rest. It is His grace that makes the difference. Paul applies this to the case at hand. In Elijah's time there was a remnant, and so there is now. These are those chosen from eternity by God to be vessels of grace and glory. They are chosen purely by grace, not because they did good works or God foresaw that they would do good works. They are chosen to be justified and accepted and loved by God. They have obtained what those who continued in unbelief have not.

questions

1. What lessons can we learn from Elijah?
2. Who keeps believers faithful?

praise pray Ps. 55:7-12

1. Give thanks that Christ is building His Church.
2. Pray for a member of your church as per the congregational list.
3. Pray for family matters.



Sat.
29th June

Let's Worship God

Verse To Learn

What then shall we say
to these things?
If God is for us,
who can be against us?
Romans 8:31

reading Romans 11:23-32 - Hope

notes Paul is giving reasons why we can hope that God will convert Jews. Yesterday we saw that our hope is rooted in the covenant promises of God. Our hope is also based on the power of God (verse 23). The conversion of souls is a work of great power, and when they seem most hardened, blind, and obstinate, our comfort is that God is able to work a change, able to stop the unbelief, able to graft those in that have been cast out.

Another reason for our hope is the grace of God shown to the Gentiles. We who have experienced the grace of God are encouraged to hope concerning others (verses 24, 30-31). We need to remember what we were like before we were saved, so that we're driven to pray for others and humble enough to realise that if we can be saved, anyone can be saved.

We also have hope because of the promises and prophecies of the Old Testament. Paul quotes Isaiah 59:20-21 in verse 26 where the coming of Christ is promised. He is the Deliverer who redeems us from our sin, turns away the wrath of God, and purchases mercy for us. These promises, these offers were made to Israel. They have been extended to the Gentiles as well. But they were made to the Jews, and as verse 29 makes clear, God does not withdraw what He gives. And so we have hope that because of His power, grace, love, and covenant faithfulness He will draw Jews to Himself.

questions

1. What does the power of God encourage us to do?
2. What does the grace of God encourage us to do?

praise pray Ps. 58:1-6

1. Pray for the preaching and hearing of God's Word tomorrow.
2. Pray for a member of your church as per the congregational list.
3. Pray for family matters.



Fri.
28th June

Let's Worship God

Verse To Learn
What then shall we say
to these things?
If God is for us,
who can be against us?
Romans 8:31

reading Romans 11:23-28 - Salvation of the Jews

notes In God's wrath He remembers mercy, and Paul makes it clear that there is hope for Jews who believe in Christ to be re-grafted into the church. This conversion of Jews is described in verse 12 as full inclusion - something that glorifies God and benefits the church. In verse 15 it's described as acceptance. They will be received into the church, into the love of Christ, and this will be like life from the dead. And in verse 23 it is described as grafting them in again, into the church from which they had been broken off, into life, strength, and grace from Christ the root, and into those privileges of visible church membership which they had previously forfeited.

On what basis does this hope that Jews will come to faith in Christ rest? First, because of the holiness of the firstfruits and the root (verse 16). Some think the firstfruits means those Jews who had already come to faith in Christ who were the firstfruits of a more plentiful harvest to come. Others think the firstfruits refers to Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob, those who had saving faith in God and with whom God entered into a covenant. And in the same way that believing parents can claim the covenant promises of God for their children at baptism, the covenant promises of God to Israel can be claimed as well. Though grace does not run in the blood, external privileges do (till they are forfeited), even to a thousand generations. It is the way of God to show kindness to the children for the father's sake. Just as believing parents can hope that, despite their failures, God will bring their children who have turned away back to Himself, we can hope that, despite their rejection of Him, God will bring Jews back to Himself. We have this hope in the knowledge that, though God is under no obligation because sin has already broken the covenant, His love and His grace will prompt Him to act and bring men to Himself (verse 28).

questions

1. Is it possible for Jews to be saved?
2. What is it about God's character that gives us hope that He will save?

praise pray Ps. 57:all

1. Pray for the covenant children in your church.
2. Pray for a member of your church as per the congregational list.
3. Pray for family matters.



Tue.
25th June

Let's Worship God

Verse To Learn
What then shall we say
to these things?
If God is for us,
who can be against us?
Romans 8:31

reading Romans 11:7-10 - Hardened, Bind, and Deaf

notes Some are chosen and called. But others are left to die in their unbelief; they are made worse by that which should have made them better. The gospel, which to those that believe is the smell of life, to the unbelieving is the smell of death. Unbelievers can neither see the light, nor feel the touch, of gospel grace. They shut their eyes and will not see, this is their sin, and then God, in righteous judgement, blinds their eyes, this is their punishment. Paul uses two Old Testament writers to back up what he is saying.

Isaiah speaks of such a judgement in his day (Isaiah 29:9-10) - of people who just don't care, who act as though they are sleeping, unaffected by anything said or done. These people are determined to continue on as they are going. They see Christ, but they do not believe in Him; they hear His Word, but they do not receive it; and so both their hearing and their seeing is in vain. Ever since Isaiah's prophesy, ever since the first preaching of the gospel, though men and women have had the most persuasive arguments of its truth, the most powerful preaching, and the clearest calls, yet to this day many are hardened, blind, and deaf.

Paul quotes David from Psalm 69:22-23 where earlier in this Psalm David foretells the sufferings Christ will endure from His own people, the Jews, especially that of them giving Him vinegar to drink (v.21). He then goes on to foretell the dreadful judgements of God upon them for it. This shows us how to understand other prayers of David's against his enemies; they are to be looked upon as prophetic of the judgements of God upon the enemies of Christ and His Kingdom. David's prayer that it might be so is a prophesy that it should be so, and not the private expression of his own resentment.

questions

1. What is the condition of unbelievers?
2. What had David foretold?

praise pray Ps. 55:13-18

1. Pray for the salvation of family and friends.
2. Pray for a member of your church as per the congregational list.
3. Pray for family matters.



Wed.
26th June

Let's Worship God

Verse To Learn
What then shall we say
to these things?
If God is for us,
who can be against us?
Romans 8:31

reading Romans 11:11-16 - Provoke to Jealousy

notes The rejection of the Jews makes room for the reception of the Gentiles. The question is asked - Has God no other purpose in forsaking and rejecting the Jews than their destruction? Paul rejects this thought strongly as he always does when anything is suggested that seems to reflect upon the wisdom, righteousness, or goodness of God. Yes, salvation could have come to the Gentiles even if the Jews had not been rejected, but God orders it that the gospel should be preached to the Gentiles upon the Jews refusal of it. God will have a church in the world, will have the wedding furnished with guests; and, if one will not come, another will. See how God brings light out of darkness, good out of evil. The sin of the Jews brings the gospel even quicker into the Gentile world. The gospel is the greatest riches of the place where it is. True believers are God's jewels. God, in Christ, is reconciling the world to Himself, despite the rejection of the Jews,

Paul wants to stir up his fellow Jews to receive and embrace the gospel. God intends by showing love to the Gentiles to provoke the Jews to jealousy. The Jews should be saying, Will the Gentiles have all the comforts and privileges of the gospel? Will we not repent of our refusal? Shall we not believe and obey and be forgiven and saved as well as the Gentiles? There is room enough, forgiveness enough, salvation enough with God for all who come to Him.

As an apostle to the Gentiles, Paul now exhorts and warns them of two things. First, they should have a respect for the Jews and desire their conversion and see it as glorifying to God and beneficial to His Church. Secondly, they should be careful they don't stumble and fall as the Jews have done. We'll look more at this tomorrow.

questions
1. What did the rejection of the Jews lead to?
2. What should the Gentiles wish for the Jews?

praise pray Ps.56:1-6
1. Pray for the salvation of the Jews.
2. Pray for a member of your church as per the congregational list.
3 Pray for family matters.



Thur.
27th June

Let's Worship God

Verse To Learn
What then shall we say
to these things?
If God is for us,
who can be against us?
Romans 8:31

reading Romans 11:17-22 - Grafted In

notes It's a privilege the Gentiles have being taken into the church. They are grafted in, as a branch of a wild olive into a good olive, which is the opposite of the normal practice of grafting good olive into bad. Men graft to mend the tree; but God grafts to mend the branch. The church of God is an olive tree, flourishing and fruitful, the fruit useful for the glory of God and the good of man. Those that are outside the church are, like wild olive trees, not only useless, but what they do produce is sour and unsavoury. This is the condition of the Gentiles, and the natural condition of every one of us. Conversion is the grafting in of wild branches into the good olive. We must be cut off from the old stock, and be brought into union with a new root. All that are by faith grafted into Christ, partake of Him and receive from His fullness. The Jews as branches have been broken off, and the Gentiles have been grafted in. The olive tree is the visible church; Christ is the root; and the believing Gentiles partake of this root and all the benefits that go along with it.

Paul warns the Gentiles not to be proud. Grace is given, not to make us proud, but to make us thankful. The Gentiles are not to think that they deserved to be grafted in or that they pleased God more. They are still just a branch, supported by the root. Paul warns them not to be too confident of their own strength and standing. They can lose the privileges they now enjoy, just as the Jews have. This seems to be the only place in the Bible where God is described as severe, and it is towards those who abuse His patience and privileges. The Jews are cut off for their unbelief, but the Gentiles stand by faith. They do not stand in any strength of their own, and they will only continue to stand as they continue to depend, believe, and live in the grace of God.

questions
1. What is the olive tree like?
2. Why were the Gentiles grafted in?

praise pray Ps. 56:7-9
1. Give thanks that you have been grafted into Christ.
2. Pray for a member of your church as per the congregational list.
3 Pray for family matters.