



## ANNOUNCEMENTS

- **Easter Volunteers** – Many people are needed during our Easter Services to help with making everything run smoothly for our visitors. Please sign up on the app or by clicking the QR code on the screen to help with Good Friday service, Easter Sunday or our Egg Hunts. Please go to the APP to sign up.
- **Good Friday Service** – Join us for our Good Friday Service at 7:00pm in the worship center. We will be celebrating the Lord's Supper together during the service.
- **Easter Invite Cards** – Christ is risen! Our church loves to proclaim the good news of the Gospel and we hope you will join us in celebration on Sunday, March 31. If you would like to distribute door hangers with your life group, please contact Chris Martinez: (760) 685-5152 or pick up a stack in the Worship Center lobby.
- **Life Groups Trimester** – This will be the last Sunday for Sermon Based Questions as the trimester ends next Saturday, March 23<sup>rd</sup>. Please remember to record attendance immediately after your group ends. Sermon Based Questions will begin again on Sunday, April 14<sup>th</sup>.

## MY STORY

**Share a time when God kept his promise to you.**

## QUICK REVIEW

Looking back at this week's teaching, was there anything that particularly caught your attention, challenged, or confused you?

### **Have a Volunteer Read: Romans 11:17-24**

#### **Point #1: God's faithfulness should not MAKE US COMPLACENT.**

"Paul has 2 words for us. First, a solemn warning, in 11:17-22, to Gentile believers, to not be arrogant because we're in the tree. Paul pictures Jesus' church as a cultivated olive tree. Some branches (unbelieving ethnic Jews) have been broken off, so wild olive shoots (believing Gentiles, not part of the original tree), could be grafted in and share in the life flowing from the original olive tree. We were grafted in by grace, so how can we be arrogant toward the original branches? Paul says the only reason Jewish branches were broken off was unbelief. The only way Gentile branches stay connected is by faith. If God didn't spare natural branches, why would you think he'd spare you? What is Paul doing here? He's uprooting... pardon the pun... any idea that we Gentiles can presume on God's grace, regardless of how we live. If we do, we will experience the same thing unbelieving Jews did. All we have is from grace. Nothing we have is deserved. We must not be proud." – **Michael Nolen**

**Have you ever taken advantage of God's grace in our life? Would you like to share?**

## **How easy is it for us to become boastful in our relationship with God instead of being humble?**

“God is just and good. God’s severity is his pure, righteous justice. It is always called for. By God's grace and mercy, we are grafted into his people by faith in Jesus. But his kindness is conditional. We too will be cut off if we don't continue in his kindness. It's not the strength of our faith. It's the strength of the one we trust in. And if our living trust is not in Jesus, we too will be removed from the olive tree, just like unbelieving Jewish people. That's the solemn warning. This isn't salvation by works. It's salvation by trust.” – **Michael Nolen**

## **What does putting your trust in God look like?**

### **Have Another Volunteer Read: Romans 11:24-36**

#### **Point #2: God’s faithfulness in human history should AMAZE AND OVERWHELM US.**

“When the word mystery occurs in the Bible, it doesn't point to something difficult to grasp or hard to explain. In the Bible, mystery points to something previously hidden from human beings that has now been revealed, or publicly made known. Notice the reason Paul is revealing this mystery. It's so Gentile believers don't give in to pride. It's the same warning he's given in Romans 11:18 and Romans 11:20. Apparently, Gentile believers then... like today...were growing proud of belonging to Jesus, comparing themselves to unbelieving Jewish people. Paul says, Don't be proud. God didn't choose you because you were better. You don't see the whole story. If you did, you'd humble yourselves and worship. Paul is revealing this mystery so they and we will not grow proud, but instead will glory in the infinite wisdom and love of God. If you go macro, big picture, on this mystery, what Paul is doing here is revealing the progressive stages of God's unfolding history of redemption.” – **Michael Nolen**

### The 4 Progressive Stages of God’s Mystery

Stage 1 – The Time of Gentile Disobedience – During this period of time, God let the nations go their own ways and sink into sin and idolatry.

Stage 2 – The Time of Jewish Disobedience - begins with the rejection of Jesus as the long-awaited Messiah and Savior. In this stage, only a remnant will believe and be saved because this partial hardening has come on Israel.

Stage 3 – The Time of evangelism and world missions - There's clearly overlap between stage 2 and 3. During this time, the majority of Israel will reject Jesus until the fullness of the Gentiles come in.

Stage 4 – The Time when Israel receives mercy - Once the fullness of Gentiles is brought in, sometime in the future, God will do a new work in which he will save all Israel.

“He can see what we can't see. He can do what we can't do. He has wisdom and knowledge we don't have, which means we can trust him totally. Who here has not gone through seasons of difficulty and hardship, where we have asked, Where's God in this? What could he possibly do in this? Does he hear my prayers? Where is all of this going?” – **Michael Nolen**

## **How should knowing that God has a plan for us that we can't see and can do what we can't do, change your day to day life?**

### **APPLICATION**

“Instead, let's be jolted alive by mercy. There's so much work to be done. The harvest is plentiful, but the workers are few.” – **Michael Nolen**

## **How can we apply God’s mercy to the people He places in our life this week?**

### **PRAISES**

### **PRAYER REQUESTS**