

Study Guide for March 10th, 2013. The Kindness and Sternness of God. Rom. 11:11-24.

Introduction: When have you observed an outcome, which was initially disappointing, to have later proven to be the springboard for some positive and unexpected development.

I. The surprising sequence: (Rom. 11:11-16)

- A. Recall Paul's question in 11:1. Did God totally reject his people Israel?
- B. Compare that question with the one here in vs. 11. Is Israel's stumbling final?
- C. What did Israel's fall or transgression or loss mean for the Gentiles? (Stage #1)
- D. What will the Gentile's salvation mean to for the Jews? What will it do? (Stage #2)
- E. What will their (Israel's) fullness bring to the world (i.e. the Gentiles)? (Stage #3)
- F. Note how this pattern unfolds in the following texts and then cite the location.
 - 1) Acts 13:44-47: 2) Acts 14:1-3: 3) Acts 18:4-7:
 - 4) Acts 19:8-10: 5) Acts 28:23-29:

G. Paul concludes this section with two metaphors. What seems to be his point with . . .

- 1) ...the dough offered as first-fruits? 2) ...the holy root and the branches?

II. The serious warning: (Rom. 11:17-22)

- A. What does the olive tree refer to here? Who are the natural and wild branches?
- B. Who does Paul address with this warning? What is Paul warning them against?
- C. Why were certain branches broken off? What is the key for branches remaining?
- D. Consider carefully vs. 21-22. Do you think genuine believers can be broken off?
- E. How has God's kindness and sternness seen in this illustration? What do we learn?

III. The certain promise: (Rom. 11:23-24)

- A. What must happen for the natural branches to be grafted in? How is this possible?
- B. What comparison does Paul give as evidence for this, future, grafting to occur?
- C. Read Rom. 11:1-24. What is Paul highlighting about ...God? ...Jews? ...Gentiles?