

SERMON SUMMARY

Romans 10 and 11 confronts us with a profound question that echoes through history and into our present moment: Has God rejected His people? The answer reverberates with clarity—by no means. What unfolds in these chapters is not a story about geopolitics or religious superiority, but rather a breathtaking revelation of God's faithfulness and mercy. We discover that God's kingdom operates on a radically different economy than we expect—one built entirely on grace through faith, not heritage, performance, or proximity to religious activity. The imagery of the olive tree with its natural and grafted branches reminds us that none of us stand before God based on our own merit. Whether Jew or Gentile, we all enter the kingdom the same way—through surrender to Jesus Christ. This passage warns against the dangerous trap of having zeal for God without true knowledge, of being Christian-adjacent without genuine surrender. We can swim in cultural Christianity, attend churches on every corner, consume endless religious content, and still miss the Messiah. The call here is clear: confession of Jesus as Lord is not mere words but complete allegiance, a treason against every other kingdom we've pledged ourselves to. As we examine our hearts, we must ask—do we have proximity to God or surrender to God? The ground at the foot of the cross is level, and mercy is the only thing holding any of us up.

Key Takeaways

1. Proximity to God is not the same as surrender to God - You can have zeal for God without true knowledge and submission to Him.
2. Everyone enters the kingdom the same way - Through confession that Jesus is Lord and belief that God raised Him from the dead (Romans 10:9).
3. The church is not replacing Israel - The church is the expansion of God's covenant mercy through Messiah to both Jew and Gentile.
4. God's sovereignty in salvation - God is working out His redemptive plan in ways beyond our full comprehension.
5. Mercy is the foundation - We don't stand before God in superiority but as rescued sinners, saved by mercy alone.

INTO THE SERMON

- 1. What did you find most helpful about this weekend's sermon?**
- 2. Pastor Sam said people can have “zeal for God, but not surrender to God.” What is the danger of being “Christian-ish”?**
- 3. The sermon warned against spiritual pride and arrogance. Why do you think pride can be such a pitfall for religious people?**

INTO THE TEXT

- 1. In Romans 10:1–4, what concern does Paul express about Israel, and what does he say they misunderstood about righteousness?**
- 2. According to Romans 10, what does Paul say is necessary for salvation?**
- 3. In Romans 11, how does Paul answer the question, “Has God rejected His people?”**
- 4. What illustration does Paul use in Romans 11 to describe Jews and Gentiles being connected to God's covenant people?**
- 5. According to Romans 11:32, why has God “consigned all to disobedience”?**

TAKE AWAY / NOW WHAT

- 1. The sermon talked about the difference between being around the things of God and truly surrendering to Him. What stood out to you from that idea?**
- 2. What are some everyday ways people can live out the confession that “Jesus is Lord”?**
- 3. Pastor Sam described believers as people who have received mercy, not people who are spiritually superior. How might that shape the way Christians relate to others?**
- 4. How can remembering God’s grace and mercy influence the way we respond to people who are struggling or see things differently?**
- 5. The sermon said that “pride dies at the table.” What do you think that means when it comes to approaching God with humility and gratitude?**