

Romans 11, Part 2 (Conrad Bowman) (November 27, 2005)

There are copies of the notes on Ephesians in the back. That's the series we are getting ready to get into.

Look at Romans 11. I'm going to finish Romans 11, and make the jump from Romans 11 into Ephesians, just so we kind of have a fairly seamless transition. We are just about finished with Romans 11, and this will take us exactly where we want to go.

[Conrad stated that he had changed medication and it seemed to be working. So that progress had been made on that front, finally, and he thanked everyone for their prayers and patience.]

In Romans 11, we've worked through this thing. I want to start at verse 20, and let you look at the end of that chapter, because verse 20 says – first, verse 19 says that, you will say then that branches were broken off so that I might be grafted in, and that's our position as God's elect body after He turned His attention away from Israel. Now He's not through with Israel by any means. He's going to come back and revisit that. That's what the Tribulation period and the end times and the Millennium Kingdom is all about. It's God finishing His covenant with Israel. But in the meantime, he said the attitude of a lot of Gentiles, says Paul, is, you're going to conclude then that branches – that's Israel – were broken off so that I might be grafted in. And the image you're going to get is of you, as a branch, taking the place of Israel as a branch. And his next comments address that. He says that's not the way it is. You are quite right. They were broken off for their unbelief, and you stand only by your faith. Notice that now. They were broken off for their unbelief, and you stand only by your faith. Do not be conceited, but fear. God did not spare the natural branches, neither will He spare you. In other words, if your faith is not present and not real – and that's the connecting glue between you and the God you serve. If your faith is not real, is not present, then the blessings that should be yours because of your relationship to God will be just as lost as the blessings Israel were promised and covenanted with by God. He made their promises – promises to them of a land forever, of real estate, of a nation, of position among nations – as a covenant forever. He's going to deliver that. But look what's happening to them. Because of their unbelief, and their rejection of Messiah, He broke that branch off. That disconnected them from the promises and blessings He had made because of their position. And he's saying to you and to me. We stand only by faith. If we don't have faith and trust in God, the blessings that come from being His child will be lost. He's not talking about

loss of salvation here. He's talking about loss of the blessings that go with the relationship. The believers can live their entire life in defeat and misery, and no realization whatsoever of the joy of being joined in union with Christ, if they don't have faith. If you don't trust God to deliver what He said He is going to deliver to His Son, you'll lose those blessings. You stand before the Bema Seat of Christ, and every act and every moment of your life that was lived, not in faith and trust in God, is going to go up in smoke. Ok. You'll lose those blessings, and everything associated with that moment of time that you lived faithless. And that's what he's talking about here. Any questions, because that's profound? Ok.

Now, if God did not spare the natural branches, neither will He spare you. Behold them the kindness and severity of God – a contrast – to those who fell, severity; but to you, God's kindness, if you continue in His kindness, otherwise you will also be cut off – and that's third class. If you continue – maybe you will and maybe you want. Ok. If you continue in His kindness, otherwise you also are going to be cut off from the blessings, not from salvation. And they also, if they do not continue in their unbelief, can be grafted in, just like you were, for God is able to graft them in again. If you were cut off from what is by nature a wild olive tree, then were grafted contrary to nature into a cultivated olive tree, how much more shall those who are the natural branches be grafted back into their own tree. Ok.

So it says God's root, his plan, Abraham, the root of blessing, they will be grafted back right into it – that's their natural place. And, when they are, by faith, grafted back in, they in this age become exactly like us, members of the Church, and they inherit the Church's blessings. Ok. If after the Church is taken out, they are grafted back in – and that's a huge "if" – during the Tribulation period, because we're talking about a remnant, a small remnant, if they're grafted back in, those are the ones that will inherit, together with the saints of the OT, the promises made to Abraham, and to Jacob, and to David. Alright. And God's plan will then be drawn complete. And that's what all this Old Testament is about, and that's what all of the prophecies of Revelation are about, is fulfilling that covenant that God made with Israel. It was so complicated, and had so many parts, and was so conditional, that it took page after page, and life after life, and century after century, to unfold that thing. When it came to the Church, 120 Galileans in the upper room, the deal was simple. Would that they were they were writing constitutions and insurance policies, it would be so simple, wouldn't it? Very simple. You believe in the Son, you're taken into the Son, everything that I have promised to my Son as His inheritance, is yours. How simple could it get? All we

have to do is just believe that, and live in faith believing that. Oh but that's tough.

Well, I know this guy who has another policy. God promised him wealth, and riches, and real estate, and so we want to go back and get covered by that other policy. You know, the one that's spelled out in the Law. We like the promises of that policy. This other one is too – kind of nebulous, you know. Yeah, I'd rather have a new car, rather than own everything – eventually. You know. And we buy off on that, and that's the big lie today. Ok. That's the big lie today.

Evelyn Wamble. [Comment. Inaudible].

Conrad Bowman. No ma'am. Our promise is not anything here. Our promise is that our life here, everything associated with it, is an expendable commodity, that can be spent in service of others as Christ gave His life for us on the cross. We can reject, we can reject the very idea that we are due wealth, ease, and comfort here, because He didn't expect that. That's what He told His disciples going out. He said, don't take another pair of shoes. Don't take another coat. Don't worry about money. It's going to be provided along the way. Ok. Your attention should be wholly and solely on bringing men into a relationship with Me that secures their eternity and ownership of everything, and not spend your life foolishly trying to accumulate goods here. You know, that's a complete anarchism. It's opposed to everything my life stands for. Ok.

Verse 25.

I do not want you brethren to be uninformed of this mystery.

And there's where the lead to Ephesians comes in, because Ephesians begins to unfold the mystery which Paul tells us is his sole responsibility to minister. It was given to him. Understand, the mystery was not unfolded by Christ. He came to fulfill the old covenant, and make it complete and whole. At His rejection, a completely mysterious thing happened. He was crucified, went into the grave, He ascended, went to be with the Father, and the Spirit came to take His place and form His Body still on earth – and that's you. That's the mystery. Verse 25.

25. For I do not want you, brethren, to be uninformed of this mystery--so that you will not be wise in your own estimation--that a partial hardening has happened to Israel until the fullness of the Gentiles has come in.

A partial hardening means it's not set in concrete and forever. It's something that can be undone. A partial hardening has happened to Israel until the fullness of the Gentiles has come in. And, this is the mystery. That Israel has been hardened and cut off from the Gospel at this particular time.

26. And thus all Israel will be saved just as it's written. The Deliverer will come from Zion ...

So notice the juxtaposition of those two verses – one he says is a partial hardening of Israel until the fullness of the Gentiles has come in – that time is finished, and then all Israel will be saved, just as it's written.

26. ... The Deliverer will come from Zion, He will remove ungodliness from Jacob,

27. and this is My covenant with them, when I take away their sins.

From the standpoint of the Gospel, they are enemies for your sake. That's Israel. Enemies of the Gospel. But, from the standpoint of God's choice, they are beloved for the sake of the fathers. So he says the covenants I have made with their fathers is still in effect and they are beloved until those covenants have been fulfilled and take place, and that's going to happen after the fullness of the Gentiles' time has come in, and that's where we are today. We are marching to the fullness of the Gentiles. The fullness of the Gentiles refers to the Body of Christ being made complete, Christ claiming His Body, His Bride, and taking her out. When that occurs, the fullness of the Gentiles has been finished. Ok.

Ron Wales. [Comment and question – inaudible].

Conrad Bowman. "All Israel" refers to all believers out of Israel who stand in faith and belief. Remember, that ties back to verse 20 – they were broken off because of their unbelief, and you stand only by your faith. But, they can be brought back in, it says, if they do not continue in their unbelief – in verse 23 – will be grafted in, for God is able to graft them in again. "All Israel" who approach Him and accept what He offers on the basis of faith and believing it, will be grafted in again. That's the "All Israel" that will be saved. It's not talking about national deliverance.

Gentleman. How is that different from now?

Conrad Bowman. How's that different from now?

Gentleman. All Jews that believe now will be grafted in?

Conrad Bowman. All the Jews that believe now are grafted into [the Church]. But, the promises that they receive are the Church's promises. Ok. At the time when the fullness of the Gentiles is finished, and the quota of the Gentiles has come in, "thus all of Israel will be saved, just as is written. The Deliverer will come out of Zion, and this is My covenant with them when I take away their sins," that's dealing specifically with Israel.

Now, the deal changes with the Rapture of the Church – the Church being taken out. Now you have no indwelling Holy Spirit. Ok. What you go back to then is the practice of trust under God's Law. The seven years of Tribulation, the period of the Tribulation, and the thousand years of the Millennial reign. During the Tribulation, you have earthly Jews and earthly Gentiles living just like they are today. You essentially have the world's population now moving into a period of stress and contrast. During that period of time, God will draw out of national Israel a remnant. That remnant will be delivered into the Millennial Kingdom. The rest are going to be lost. They are going to be destroyed. They will be killed, either by the anti-Christ or by the calamities that occur worldwide. The only Jews who remain to go into the Millennial Kingdom will be the remnant. You're talking 50,000, 60,000 maybe? Out of the entire worldwide population of Jews now.

Gentleman. [Question and comment – inaudible].

Conrad Bowman. All Israel will be saved. But, the only people who are true Israelites at that time are the ones who are believers. Remember now, remember now, every Israelite is cut off. Every Israelite is cut off. They start into the Tribulation Period being 100% lost, because they are already cutoff. You see, you go into the Tribulation Period with 100% condemnation.

Now, some out of Israel – we won't get this until we get to Galatians – Ok. But some out of Israel will see the truth, and accept Christ the Messiah who came and the Gospel as we know it. They're too late to claim the blessings of the Gospel as we know it, they do not come with belief in the Tribulation Period, but they see the Gospel as we present it today and some will accept it. Those are the remnant that will be delivered alive into the Millennial Kingdom. That's all of

Israel there is, because all the others have already been cutoff and do not constitute Israel. We're confusing physical Israel, generic political Israel, with this.

Ron Wales. Something about removing ungodliness from Jacob. That'll be the unbelieving Israel?

Conrad Bowman. That's right.

Ron Wales. And this is My covenant. With them, I will take away their sins.

Conrad Bowman. I'll take away their sin. This is My covenant with them when I take away their sins. At the time when their sins are taken away.

Charles Pirtle. Look at Daniel 12.1. "All Israel" in this context. This is the part during the Tribulation.

1. Now at that time Michael, the great prince who stands guard over the sons of your people [talking about Israel], will arise And there will be a time of distress such as never occurred since there was a nation until that time; and at that time your people [Israel], everyone who is found written in the book, will be rescued.

And I think that's the "All Israel."

Conrad Bowman. Yeah. The remnant. That's the remnant coming out of the nation.

Charles Pirtle. Right. That's the remnant. And you see it again I think in Isaiah 4:3.

Conrad Bowman. Yeah. And it starts back in Daniel 10, 9 and 10, 11 and 12, they all refer to that period

Charles Pirtle. Isaiah 4:3 is essentially the same passage. It says,

It shall come to pass that he that is left in Zion, and he that remaineth in Jerusalem, shall be called holy, everyone of them that is written among the living in Jerusalem.

Conrad Bowman. Right. So that separates between the Israel that we know, political Israel that we know, and the spiritual Israel, or redeemed Israel, that's found written in the book.

Charles Pirtle. I think so.

Lady. [Question – inaudible].

Conrad Bowman. I've got two questions right there in the back that's been holding.

Lady. [Question. Inaudible].

Conrad Bowman. 144,000 Jews.

Lady. [Question – inaudible].

Conrad Bowman. Yeah I know. Yeah. Think about it. Today, the One who ministers the gospel to a lost world, who opens the eyes of the unsaved, so that they can receive the Gospel, is the Spirit of God Himself. Ok. He is the one who does that. We're mechanics. Ok. We bring the message that He has put in our hands, and we lay it in front of them. We don't convince anybody by clever argument, or fine surroundings, or good coffee or anything else. Or friendship. That's not what convinces them. What opens the eyes of the unbeliever is God Himself, the Holy Spirit, and brings them to Himself. No man comes to the Father except through the Son. Ok.

Now, take the Spirit out. You don't have a Spirit in residence in the Tribulation Period. You have 144,000 who are under the protection whose minds are sealed by God, against deception. That's 144,000. To the four winds, before you blow on the earth, whose minds have been sealed. Those people have been sealed against deception. None other are sealed against deception. We cannot imagine the power of the enemy, the prince of the power of the air. I shudder every time I hear one of these over-painted wig-adorned people talk about having, talk about having their foot on the neck of the devil and ordering him out. That is absolute foolishness. When Christ Himself was faced with Satan himself, He did not take authority over Satan. He answered him on the basis of the Scripture that His Father had sent in the centuries in the past. It is written. Boom. His dependence as a man, a perfect man, was 100% based on the Word of God, the words of His Father, delivered to man.

Now, you take that Spirit out and you put 144,000 there, look at what happens. It says, in order for them to state their belief, they're going to have to state their belief right on up to the moment they lose their head. Or worse. Without the shedding of blood, there is no remission of sins – is a principle that man has lived under from the beginning. They have rejected the blood of the only Man whose sacrifice would pay for their sins. They rejected that. Ok.

Now, how many of them do you think are going to accept the Gospel of the 144,000 at the price of their own life? After unspeakable things have happened? Are they willing to give their own life in order to demonstrate their belief, and therefore appropriate to themselves again the promises that God made by covenant with them. I don't see a great throng rushing to do that. I see at best a remnant, the remnant, small, intensely moved, to accept that Gospel, and then at great cost to themselves. You know. The clarion call of almost all mission work is the fact that we have to get the gospel to every people group in the world before Christ can come again. That's not true. Christ can come again today before we're finished here. It's done. It's done. His message has been done to all people for a long, long time. Ok. The Gospel has been out there. It stays out there. Even the heavens themselves declare it. The earth which has been created declares it. Men can reject God as God long before they hear the Gospel in English or translated from English to whatever they speak. You know. We're confused. That makes God's action dependent upon our doing our part. Foolish thought. God never, ever, ever, binds Himself to our acting in order for Him to move on His promises to any man. It just doesn't happen.

"Thus all of Israel will be saved" I am absolutely convinced is the remnant. If we studied Daniel carefully those passages from 9, 10, 11, and 12, we see that not only – the 144,000 were sealed, but some of them, some of them, fall away. We get to the passages in Matthew, the parables in Matthew, dealing with that, and we'll see that even some of the 144,000, though they're sealed against deception, willingly fall away. Ok. God preserves His remnant. No question about it. But man's nature is pervasive and terrible. And I have this lady that's been waiting. Oh, we've done it. Ok.

Charles Pirtle. Cites Revelation 7: 9, depending on your interpretation of it. But it does say, "Multitudes shall be saved." Multitudes as a result of the 144,000. Too many to count. So that would suggest that many, many, many – in contrast by numbers, may be few. But many, it says, pretty clear, a number too large to count.

Lady. [Inaudible].

Conrad Bowman. Remember what the Holy Spirit is. The Holy Spirit is a down payment on our inheritance. That wasn't true of Israel, was it? It was never true of Israel. The Holy Spirit wasn't given as a down payment to the inheritance for Israel. No. It's not an inheritance. Ok. The fullness of the times of the Gentile have come in. We've cutting into some interesting water here. It may make the study of Ephesians a year long.

Ron Wales. Conrad, you sort of implied something, but I wasn't sure. Can I sort of ask a specific question?

Conrad Bowman. Sure.

Ron Wales. The unbelieving Jew in the Tribulation will all die?

Conrad Bowman. That's right.

Ron Wales. Before they ... [inaudible].

Conrad Bowman. When you go into the Millennium, when we go into the Millennium, only believing Jews and believing Gentiles who survive that period [the Tribulation] will go into the Millennial Kingdom. Now, when we get into a study of the Millennium Kingdom, and I can get into a lot of fights with that view. You understand that. So, well, we'll just let it go at that.

When they go into the Millennial Kingdom. You see what's happening, when you look at the nature of the Millennial Kingdom, you're doing this. Back here, there was Adam and Eve in the garden. They were in a perfect environment, and they were in a relationship with God, they knew God face to face. He came, visited with them, they talked, and what-have-you. And He gave Adam a couple of instructions, and one of them was about that infernal tree. And he passed the word on to Eve. He passed the word on to Eve. Well, this is real important, because Eve didn't get the instruction directly from God. She got the instruction from her head, Adam. Now, if Adam had been approached first by Satan, and deceived, and he told Eve, "This is a really a good banana, you need to taste this," then she would have had an excuse, because she was only doing what her head told her to do. Satan was all wise, he deceives Eve, who had not gotten instruction directly from God but from man, Adam, and Eve ate the fruit. That's

the reason we get our old sin nature from our fathers, not our mothers. Ok. Which Brenda reminds me of almost daily. She invokes that several times a week! [Laughter]. Well, it's not my fault. I got it from – YOU. Smart girl.

You see how important that is. That left the crack in the door that allowed for Christ to be born of a woman, wholly human, but with no human father completely free of and old sin nature. You see how important that little detail is? And we just gloss over these things sometimes and don't stop and appreciate that. Eve was deceived. The picture of that in the order that defeats that very idea in breach of God's plan is the reason why He establishes the family with the man as the head of the family. It's the reason He appoints elders in churches. They all follow in type that same sense of order. How important is it, how we run our church? Well, it's important how we run our families. It's important as how we approach God and what we know about sin and the old sin nature. How is it important that the male of the family identify with and be involved with the development of his children. He can't go off and spend most of his life with work accumulating whatever it takes for his family to grow. His primary role is to make sure his children understand where their old sin nature comes from, and help them gain an understanding of it. And he ought to know it because he lives with it. There's simplicity to God's plan and order. We make it so blooming complicated because I don't want to live on grace. No, give me those 600 rules. Where is that book of rules? And we want to go back to that Law and pick up those 600 rules of behavior, rather than dealing with root causes. Have I wandered too far?

Lady. Comment about getting to the "perfect environment.?

Conrad Bowman. So Adam and Eve in this perfect environment. Now watch what happens. They had one rule. Leave that tree alone and it's fruit. You come down here, and disobedience occurred, they passed out of the garden. You come down here, and there's this tower ... [inaudible] to heaven. And God comes down and He removes the sinful from the earth. Just like He removed the sinful from the garden. And the flood came, then they got rules, and the next thing you know they went into captivity. Jacob, and all of that which we studied in Genesis, and the Law was given. Now, we've moved from one rule to 613 or so rules here, and the bar keeps getting higher. And we come down here, and now we have the life of a man who comes, and His life removes sin again. And, the rule became more complicated, because instead of this you had to accept the work of a man. Well, that's really difficult. And then the Church Age comes in here, and we go through the seven years of Tribulation, and the Millennial

Kingdom comes, and what happens is God allows into the Millennial Kingdom – perfection.

Lady. That's the perfect environment.

Conrad Bowman. Perfect environment.

Charles Pirtle. And man will mess that up.

Conrad Bowman. And, man who managed to make it through the worst period of man's history, right here, the Tribulation Period, and was delivered through it, all those who were delivered through this, delivered through it on the basis that they're the elite on this side of the beginning, and they go in here as believers. Just like Adam and Eve were believers down there. And, for 1,000 years they propagate and re-populate the earth for 1,000 years under perfect rule of Christ. Under perfect rule. Which means, the earth is not in rebellion against them any more. Evil thoughts are put down, much less evil deeds. Does man like that? No. At the end of that time, Satan, who has been bound up down here in the pit, is released at the end of the Tribulation Period, to deceive who he will. The whole blooming world rebels against God at that. Because they do not want to be ruled by a perfect rule. Even by the Lord Jesus Himself, who's in a period of celebration with His Bride. They don't like that. We don't want anybody telling us what not to do. We just don't. So they rebel against God. Ok.

Now, that "All Israel" is a reference to those who in belief – you see, we're spiritual Israel, that's what Galatians tells us in Galatians 6, the Church becomes spiritual Israel, and we're taken here. "Believing Israel" is delivered here, those that are alive, into the Millennial Kingdom. They never see death. They live for 1,000 years. These people who are born during this period of time won't see any deterioration of any kind. And at the end of that time

Lady. Conrad ... [inaudible. Question about sin being judged on the spot. Sin coming from man, because Satan can't be blamed for it because he's bound up].

Conrad Bowman. No. He's bound up. What you have here is man's old sin nature. The old sin nature, and the Lord will deal with it, as it occurs. And how many of us would like that? We wouldn't like it. So, at the end of that time, there's going to be the second great revolt.

[More questions and comments. Inaudible].

Conrad Bowman. No. See, we go from here to the Marriage Supper of the Lamb. And this is the extended period of celebration. And this is what's going on, on earth during that time. Ok. At the end of this time, Satan will deceive whom he will, and all will be gathered – the Great White Throne Judgment and everything. And Satan, and the angels, and all who've sinned during this period of time, and at that time rebelled against God, all of them go to the Great White Throne Judgment.

Lady. [Inaudible question].

Conrad Bowman. The Bema Seat is back here. The Bema Seat is the beginning of the wedding ceremony. Ok. Now. My golly, I almost made it. Ray, you had something?

Ray Johnson. [Something about things always getting more complicated. The spiritual basis is, you faith is ... when it grows, becomes the largest tree, and the birds of the air come and light in it. And that's how it was. The Church started very simple, and now it's ...].

Charles Pirtle. From profoundly simple to simply profound.

Conrad Bowman. And of extreme interest, the word for birds there are caran eaters – ravens. So, where do they roost? They roost in the Church. The enemy is not in the business of building bars and crack houses. He's in the business of building churches. And they look like churches, and they smell like churches, and they have great buses, and everything. And if we think we're safe from that, for one second, we make a serious, serious mistake. It takes diligence to keep our message pure and our actions consistent to the claims of Christ on the world. Let's pray.

Father we thank You for the time You give us. Thank you Father for the way You strengthen – me personally, and for the joy You give me. We trust You for everything we face in the week to come, and give us a sense of Your presence and how near we are in Your blessings. Thank you in Christ's name, because He paid for every bit. Amen.