

THE GOODNESS AND SEVERITY OF GOD  
Romans 11:19-22

INTRODUCTION:

- A. The Gentiles were not to boast because God broke off the Jews and grafted them in.
  - 1) Some of the branches were broken off      verse 17
  - 2) They should not boast                      verse 18
  
- B. This seemed to be a reason for joyous boasting
  - 1) "Thou wilt say then, the branches were broken off, that I might be grafted in."                      verse 19
  - 2) "You may make the natural retort..."
  
- I. Why Were The Jews Broken Off?                      verse 20
  - A. "Well; because of unbelief they were broken off." vs. 20a
    - 1) "unbelief" =  $\alpha\pi\iota\sigma\tau\iota\alpha$  = "without faith", "distrust" "not believing God"
    - 2) "Very well, but it was by lack of faith..."
  
  - B. "and thou standest by faith"
    - 1) "standest" = "to stand fast"
    - 2) "and you owe your position to faith"
  
- II. The Gentiles Should Not Be Filled With Pride
  - A. "Be not highminded but fear"                      verse 20b
    - 1) "highminded" =  $\upsilon\psi\eta\lambda\omicron\phi\rho\rho\omicron\nu\epsilon\omega$  = "to think lofty things", "to be haughty"
    - 2) "fear" =  $\phi\omicron\beta\epsilon\omega$  = "to be put in fear"
    - 3) "Stop your haughty thinking; rather continue to be reverent."      Wms.
  
  - B. "For if God spared not the natural branches, take heed lest he also spare not thee."



- 1) *"spared not"* = φειδομαι (ουκ = not) + "to spare, e.g. to abstain from using or doing anything" God quit using the Jews!
- 2) *"natural branches"* = "according to nature"
- 3) *"...neither will he spare you"*

III. The Goodness And Severity of God verse 22

A. *"Behold therefore the goodness and the severity of God:"*

- 1) *"goodness"* = χρηστοτης = "kindness", "benevolence to man"
- 2) *"severity"* = αποτομια = The word comes from a verb meaning, to cut right off, to cut short, and emphasizes a rigor which does not bend. It is God doing what He says He will do about sin.

B. *"on them which fell, severity;"*

- 1) *"fell"* = πωπτω = "to fall, as from a higher to a lower place", "fall down"
- 2) *"on them which fell, swift and sure justice"*

C. *"but toward thee, goodness, if thou continue in his goodness:"*

- 1) *"goodness"* = (see A.1) above)
- 2) *"continue"* = επιμενω = "to remain upon", "to remain longer", "in addition", "to stay with"

D. *"otherwise thou shalt be cut-off"*

- 1) *"cut-off"* = εκκοπτω = "to cut out"
- 2) *"you will be pruned away"*

IV. God's Goodness

A. One of the characteristics of God is that of goodness

- 1) It is great
  - a) NEH. 9:25 - "...and delighted themselves in thy great goodness."

2) It is abundant

a> EX. 34:6 - "The Lord God, merciful and gracious, longsuffering, and abundant in goodness, and truth."

3) The earth is full of it

a> PS. 33:5 - "the earth is full of the goodness of God."

4) It endures

a> PS. 52:1 - "...the goodness of God endureth continually."

5) They are many

a> PS. 25:7 - "Remember me...according to thy goodness sake, O Lord."

B. The affect of God's goodness

1) *Romans 2:4*

2) God's people are to be good

a> GAL. 5:22 - "But the fruit of the Spirit is...goodness."

b> EPH. 5:9 - "(For the fruit of the Spirit is in all goodness...)"

V. God's Severity

A. One of God's characteristics

1) *Romans 2:3, 6*

2) He cut-off Israel, His people!

3) God will deal with sin

B. Hell is God's work

1) Satan did not make hell

2) Man did not make hell

3) God fashioned this prison!