



PART 13: ROOTS & SHOOTS

Reading Romans is like the experience of a man groping in a dark church tower who reaches out to grab whatever he can – and grasps the rope that rings the bell that wakes up the entire community.

~ Karl Barth

In Romans 11 Paul again stresses the decisiveness of faith. Salvation is not determined by the nation we live in, the family we were born to, or the church we attend. It has nothing to do with how often we go to mass or how many times we have “come forward” at a Billy Graham crusade.

~ Douglas J. Moo

Paul’s point in Romans is that the community that is created by this gospel must live as the true renewed humanity, in its internal and external life. In particular, it must reflect God’s intention that Jew and Gentile come together as one worshipping body in Christ.

~ N. T. Wright

What Paul envisions is the unifying of the people of God, Jew and Gentile, in Christ. This, he believes, is God’s plan for the world.

~ Ben Witherington III

Judaism without Christ is unfinished.

~ Craig C. Hill

The new age is a time when God opens wide the doors of salvation to all people. No longer is his plan focused on one people, Israel.

~ Douglas J. Moo

In the Kingdom of God, wherein God rules the saved, there are not second-class citizens, no “separate but equal”; rather, there is “neither Jew nor Gentile”.

~ David H. Stern

Paul’s point is that what counts is grace, not race.

~ N. T. Wright

How odd of God to choose the Jews.

~ William Norman Ewer

But not so odd as those who choose a Jewish God, but spurn the Jews.

~ Cecil Browne (in reply to Ewer)

It is understandable that since the Holocaust Jews have demanded an end to Christian missionary activity among them and that many Christians have felt embarrassed about continuing it. But Romans 11 is clear – there is only one olive tree, to which Jewish and Gentile *believers* both belong.

~ John Stott

According to Paul’s olive tree analogy of Romans 11, both Jews and Gentiles will make up the flourishing tree that stands for the Kingdom. Paul’s message is simple: God has made room in his family for both of you, so you better learn how to get along together.

~ Linda K. Taylor

I am not ashamed of the gospel.

~ The Apostle Paul