

LESSON 24: ROMANS 11:25-12:8

The Remnant (cont'd)

1. In the Scriptures, what is a ðmysteryö (v. 25)? Why do you think the Holy Spirit uses mysteries? What is the ðmysteryö Paul speaks of in these verses (vv. 25-27; compare with Mark 13:10; Luke 21:23-24; and Revelation 7:1-8)?
2. There are at least three ways to interpret ðall Israelö in verse 26. First, as total number of the elect, both Jews and Gentiles, of every generation; second, as the total number of elect Jews of every generation; third, as the great majority of the Jews of the final generation. Which is your view? Defend it.
3. How will ðall Israelö be saved?
4. How are the Jews ðenemiesö on the account of the Gentiles (v. 28)? What dual position do the Jews have at the present time? Why are they still loved?
5. What does Paul say about both the Jews and Gentiles in verses 30-32?
6. What are the conditions which put God's mercy into effect? (See Romans 10:12-13).
7. By what truths is Paul overwhelmed in this doxology (vv. 33-36)? Why is this doxology an appropriate conclusion to this entire section from 9:1 through 11:32?

New Life in Christ

1. What are the mercies of God (12:1)? How does the living sacrifice and spiritual worship of the believer in Jesus Christ differ from the sacrifices of the Old Testament? (See Hebrews 13:15-16 and 1 Peter 2:5.) Why does Paul call our offering of ourselves as a spiritual act of worship? To live a life acceptable to God, what must be the core, motivating force?

2. What two possible outlooks on life are contrasted in 12:2? Compare with Romans 8:5-7. As a Christian, what is your responsibility for your body and mind? How can your mind be renewed? What must God do? What must you do?

3. What must happen in order to discern and agree with God's will (v. 2)? What are the ways in which to test what God's will is?

4. What practical suggestion does Paul give concerning the use of your mind (v. 3)? Why is self-centeredness to have no place in the Christian life? It is said that there is no pride more dangerous and objectionable than spiritual pride. How do you prevent it in yourself?

5. What do grace and faith in verses 3 and 6 have to do with how you discern and act on God's will for your life?

6. Why does the discussion of the gifts of the Spirit tend to cause division within a fellowship of believers? The gift list in verses 6-8 is not complete. The purpose is to teach certain principles about how to use gifts. What principles can you identify? How do you put them into practice in your life? Why is the possession of a spiritual gift or gifts not enough for the Christian? What gifts are given to build up the believer who possesses them, and which are given for the good of others? What is your attitude to be like toward God, toward yourself, and toward other believers?