**Elder Berry Ross January 24, 2021**

**Salvation, The Greatest Thing We Never Earned**

Romans 11:11-24

**Key Truth:** God’s plan for salvation was and is His alone.

1. Some early beneficiaries from the vineyard.

 A. Abraham was greatly rewarded for his faith.

 B. Israel was chosen by God to be His people.

 C. Ruth believed and was redeemed.

2. Israel may be down, but they are not out.

 A. The Jews of today are not a desolate people.

 B. They will not remain defiant towards the living God.

 C. They are not playing second fiddle to the saints.

3. Israel’s fall becomes the Gentiles gain.

 A. Gentiles now get to experience God’s grace.

 B. Salvation was made available to the Gentiles.

 **Ephesians 2:11-13**

 C. Gentiles now have the opportunity to live by faith.

4. Salvation should be lived out through humility.

 A. Christians are not better than anyone else.

 B. Love is the true identifier for Christians. **John. 13:35**

 C. The Christian life is powered by Jesus Christ.

 **2 Corinthians 12:9**

**Taking It Beyond The Walls:** Since salvation is not earned but given, believers should live in appreciation of what was given. Every good thing comes from God. Live a life that points to Him.

**Connection Group Homework**

Looking back at your notes, was there anything that particularly caught your attention, challenged or confused you?

Share about a time when your plans were thrown off by an unexpected circumstance or event. What happened? How did you respond?

How do you tend to respond when you are forced to change your plans? Why do you respond this way? What does this tell you about yourself?

Read Romans 11:1-10: What events brought up the question Paul poses in verse 1? How does Paul answer this question (vv. 2-6)?

Have you ever been tempted to think God has utterly rejected certain people? What is wrong with such thinking?

On what basis does God save people today? How might our faith suffer if we fail to recognize this?

Read Matthew 11:28-30. How do these verses relate to Romans 11:32?

Read Romans 11:33-36: Why do you think Paul concludes his teaching on God’s plan among the Jews and Gentiles by acknowledging the perfect wisdom, knowledge, and glory of God?

Why might it be important for us to recognize these attributes of God as we seek to share the gospel with others?