*Northwest Bible Church – May. 23, 2004 – Worship Service – Alan Conner*

**Romans 9-11**

*Introduction to Romans 9-11*

INTRO
    A. Introduction (1:1-15).
    B. Theme (1:16-17).
    C. Justification (1:18-8:39).
        1) Human depravity and divine wrath on all (1:18-3:20).
        2) Justification by faith alone (3:21-5:21).
        3) Justification and sanctification (6:1-8:39).
   D. Vindication (chapters 9-11).

**I. THE PROBLEM OF ISRAEL’S REJECTION OF THE GOSPEL AND CONSEQUENT LOSS OF SALVATION AND PROMISED BLESSINGS.**

A. The connection with Romans 8:35-39.

B. The problem of Israel’s unbelief and rejection of the gospel.

Chs. 9-11 Paul is seeking to resolve the tension between Israel being God’s chosen people in the Old Covenant, recipients of so many privileges, having the adoption (9:4-5), and yet THE MAJORITY ARE NOT EXPERIENCING THE NEW COVENANT BLESSINGS OF SALVATION IN CHRIST JESUS DUE TO THEIR UNBELIEF.

Paul has been laying the foundation behind this objection:

            1) He taught that the gospel is "first for the Jew" (1:16),
            2) He taught that judgment was also "first for the Jew" (2:9).
            3) He taught that the law and circumcision do not save the Jews.
                 law condemns the Jew – 2:17-24.
                circumcision is nullified by their sin – 2:25.
            4) He taught that all Jews and Gentiles were both sinners (3:9).

        If the LAW and CIRCUMCISION will not save, then what will? Paul explains in 3:28-29.

**II. THE PROBLEM OF THE GENTILES ACCEPTANCE OF THE GOSPEL AND THEIR CONSEQUENT ENJOYMENT OF SALVATION AND ISRAEL’S BLESSINGS.**

    A. The Gentiles now enjoy the covenant blessings of Israel.

        1) The Gentiles who believe are true Jews (2:26-29).
        2) The Gentiles who believe are children of Abraham (4:10-11; 16-17).
        3) The Gentiles who believe are being forgiven and justified (4:6-7).
        4) The Gentiles who believe receive the gift of the Holy Spirit (5:5).
        5) The Gentiles who believe are God’s adopted children (8:14-16).
        6) The Gentiles who believe are heirs of God and glory (8:17-18).

    B. Paul must explain the relationship between Israel and the church.

**III. THE OVERRIDING PROBLEM OF GOD’S COVENANT FAITHFULNESS TO HIS PROMISES TO ISRAEL.**
    A. Paul defends the gospel against one of the biggest objections raised by the Jews: What about God’s promises to Israel? Rom. 9:6 "But it is not as though the word of God has failed."

    B. Paul’s answer must give a correct interpretation of Israel’s promises in the OT.

    C. Paul’s aim is to unite and reconcile the Jewish and Gentile Christians in Rome.

IV. AN OUTLINE OF CHAPTERS 9-11.

Ch. 9 – vindication from God’s perspective
Ch. 10 – vindication from man’s perspective
Ch. 11 – vindication from God’s overall plan for Israel

    Personal lament over Israel’s lost condition (9:1-5).
    1) 9:6-24 - God’s word to Israel has not failed but is fulfilled in His sovereign choice of a remnant. Election is not given just to teach election, but to help understand how to interpret Israel’s covenant promises in the OT.
    2) 9:24-29 - The remnant includes both Jews and Gentiles.
    3) 9:30-10:21 – Faith is the critical means of salvation for the remnant. Israel must take responsibility for her unbelief.
    4) 11:1-10 – Israel’s current condition both in hardening and in the salvation of the remnant.
    5) 11:11-32 – Israel’s future hope. Olive tree. What does 11:26 mean?
    Doxology (11:33-36).

CONCLUSION