

Romans: A Study on Reformation
Lesson 32 “We Are Not Alone”

I. Introduction and Review - We are continuing our series on *Romans* today. Our focus in this series reformation, specifically reforming our relationships.

A. The first thing we need to reform about our understanding of *Romans* it isn't just a letter about how we are justified by faith. While that's true, but only the context of the letter is human relationships and bringing together different people groups with different belief systems around the centrality of Jesus.

B. Paul wrote this letter to the church in Rome to reform it in 57 A.D. prior to his trip to Jerusalem. He wrote to deal major issues the church in Rome was having issues which related to the banishment of the Jews from Rome in the year 49 A.D.

1. When the church in Rome began it was mostly comprised of Jews who converted to Christianity. The church culture was very much in line with Judaism (keep the law of Moses, focus on circumcision, keep the feast days, etc.)

2. In 49 A.D. the Roman Emperor Claudius banished all the Jews from Rome because of their religious and political disturbances. *Acts 18:1-2*. The Jews were banished until 54 A.D. when Nero became Emperor and said they could return.

3. When the Jewish Christians were banished, the only Christians left were Gentiles (the heathen). They were now in charge in the church in Rome and the culture of the church was completely different. Modern example would be if all of the traditional people were banished from town and the church was turned over to Millennials/Gen Z who brought in a more contemporary vibe to service.

4. Each side had an aura of superiority. The Jews thought they were better because they were God's original chosen people and the Gentiles thought they were better because they were the replacement of the Jews since they rejected Jesus.

C. Last week we really hit on the idea of the relationship between the Jewish and gentile Christians. We looked at passages of scripture that showed that God provoked the Jews jealousy by pouring out his spirit on the gentiles. We also saw that in the midst of Him doing this, He wasn't done with the Jews. **The big idea is He is the God of everyone (not individual groups).**

D. Today, we're going to continue that theme and study *Romans 11:1-6* in greater depth. Our focus is “We Are Not Alone.” God always reserves a remnant to come along side us.

1. Recent surveys say 60% of Americans identify as feeling lonely regularly.

2. In the context of *Romans*, Paul was trying to show both the Jews and gentiles that they were not alone and things would be better if they connected with one another and partnered together in the gospel. This was the heart of God.

3. What I want you to get out of today is you aren't alone even if it feels like you are. God wants you to pull with Him and others and receive the breakthrough you are believing for.

II. We Are Not Alone.

A. Romans 11:1-6

1. In *verses 1-5*, Paul answers the question some were having in that day... Was God done with the Jews? No.
2. In *Verses 2-4*, Paul picks up the story of Elijah who oversaw the largest revival in the Old Testament. Unfortunately, it was short lived because Elijah operated alone, which led him to getting into fear and running instead of leading.
 - a. *Verse 3* says Elijah pleaded against the people of Israel. Ministers should plead for their people. Wives should plead for their husbands, Parent should plead for their children, etc. Why did Elijah do this? He got into fear and though he was all alone. **2 Kings 19:9-18**. God showed him there were 7,000 more. He got alone and got into deception.
 - b. **1 Kings 18:13** Obadiah tells Elijah that he hid 100 prophets in a cave. Elijah knew better, but he couldn't hear with his spiritual ears because he operated alone and was a one man show.
 - c. After the revival breaks and Elijah defeats and kills 850 false prophets by himself, Jezebel sends word she is going to have him killed. Look at **1 Kings 19:3. When fear hit, Elijah hit his servant. He continued the pattern of operating alone.**
 - d. After God spoke to Elijah and told him to anoint Elijah as his replacements, he did not do a great job mentoring. He was difficult, moody, and repeatedly tried to get rid of Elisha. Elijah never learned his lesson and didn't fulfill his ultimate destiny.
 - e. Dean Ratdke "Working alone has many benefits. Longevity isn't one of them."
 - f. Elisha was different. **2 Kings 6:1** We read he dwelt with the school of the prophets. Elijah had more interaction with others and poured himself into the next generation. Elisha didn't experience a great fall.
3. The lesson we need to learn out of this is whatever our situation we are not alone. We aren't the only passionate people about Jesus. You aren't the only person that cares at work. You aren't the only person who has been in whatever difficult situation you are going through. Others have been there before and he calls others to come along side of you by the election of grace, not your works. This is why **Romans 11:5-6** the remnant our preserved by the election of grace and not of works.

B. The main idea of **Romans 11:1-6** is that God was not done with the Jews and that he had reserved some to Himself by His grace not their good works.

1. Good news for the Jews because it meant God wasn't done with them.
2. Good news for the gentiles because it meant they were not alone in bringing revival into the rest of the world. It also meant they needed to drop their aura of superiority they had against the Jews.

III. Conclusion

A. Takeaways - Whatever you are going through, you are not alone. **1 Corinthians 10:13**. Somebody has been through what you've been through and God will bring people along side of you by His grace to help you.

1. We need to pull together right now more than ever before. I made the mistake of isolating myself after going through a lot of hurts during Covid and it got me into a funk I almost didn't pull out of. Don't do that. We need to pull together, particularly in an election year.
2. If this is your home church, get connected in a group. Life groups are designed for people to connect and not feel alone. And go to the group repeatedly for months. It takes time to build relationships.

B. Transition to Craig