**‘God’s Glorious Gospel: The Righteousness God Requires’ Message #67 – ‘The Worst Sort of Pride’**

**Sept 24th, 2017**

**Text: Rom. 11:17-20**

Keith M. Doyle, Lead Pastor

Winnetka Bible Church

**I. Summary:**

**1. Section #1: The Righteousness God Requires (Chap.1:1-3:20)**

* Romans 3:9-22 – **Summary:** Religious ‘Outsiders’ and ‘Insiders’ are all Under Sin (v.9)
* **Theme: God's Holiness In Condemning Sin**

**2. Section #2: The Righteousness Christ Provides (Chap.3:21-6:23)**

* So if there is NO human solution (Chap.3-5) – God has a solution!
* **Theme: God’s Grace in Justifying Sinners**

**3. Section #3: The Righteousness the Spirit Produces (Chap.7:1-8:39)**

* This new union has a ‘new way’ of living, ***‘…new way of the Spirit’*** (7:6)
* **Theme: God’s Power in Sanctifying Believers**

**4. Section #4: God’s Righteousness in Salvation (Chap.9-11)**

* Have God’s promises to save failed if there is rampant unbelief?

**5. Interrogative Question:**

* + **Illus.** Neb’s big head; Daniel 3
  + **‘Hardening’ and God’s work through redemptive history: (nesting dolls)** Creation, Corruption, Covenant Community, Christ, Church, Consummation
  + **‘Insidious’ sin of pride...**it crouches at the door (c/f Lk.18:9-14)
  + **Q. *Is it possible to be proud of grace?***
  + My aim is to show you what Paul says about God’s grace and how we can keep killing the sin that haunts us…

1. **Don’t Forget How You Got Here (16-18, *‘…you…were grafted in among the others’* 17)** 
   1. **The Olive Tree**
   * Spurgeon said are, ***‘Illustrations are like ‘windows’ to make truths clearer…a building without windows would be a prison – not a house. Such is a sermon without a story.’***…but be careful…you can also overdo an illustration
   * What/who is the olive tree? **Apply:** The danger of ‘not thinking’ it applies to us
   1. **Old Covenant, New Covenant** – one tree
   * There was a remnant in national Israel…there is a remnant in the church today…

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   * Paul’s main purpose: Reminding us where we came from…warning of the dangers of pride in the Gentile church
   1. **The Abrahamic Promise…the *‘nourishing root’*** (16,17)
   * c/f 28 ***‘…they are beloved for the sake of their forefathers’*** (c/f Gen 12)
   * Paul implies the ‘first promise’ to be including all nations
   1. **God’s Grace is the Reason for the Blessing!** ***‘…You were grafted in among the others…’* (17)**
   * You were a ***‘wild olive shoot’*** (17)– outsider, it’s through sheer mercy – no one deserves it
   * ***‘A wonderful exercise in horticulture’*** (Ash) – contrary to expectations
   * You are dead without the root! (18) **Illus.** the teen and his freedom…
   * **Context:** Don’t be arrogant towards unbelieving Jews…**apply!**
2. **Don’t Forget How You Stay Here *‘…stand fast through faith…fear…’* (19,20)**
   1. **Cultivating Faith**
   * Faith in Christ’s Gospel…genuine faith…cripples pride (James 4…)
   * The origin of faith (c/f Eph.2:8,9); ***‘They were broken off because of their unbelief…’*** (20)
   * Why does Paul mention **faith** as the solution?
     + - It’s under threat (Lk.22;31,32; Eph.6:16…***’shield of faith to extinguish…what?’***)
       - Peter’s words (c/f 1 Pet.5:6-11)
       - Paul’s answer: ***‘Stand fast through faith’*** (20) = How? **Implications:**

* There is one people of God – no one is ‘better’
* The people of God must bear fruit – it’s assumed
* Neither ‘cultivated’ or ‘wild’ branches contribute to their own nourishment
* Don’t presume on God’s favor…abide in faith (c/f Rom.10:9-11)
  1. **Cultivating ‘Fear’…why? *‘So do not become proud but fear’* (20)**
  + **Because we are always in danger…even with ‘good’ things**
* Insidious means? Eg. Sound doctrine (Eph.4:13-15;1 Cor.8:1)
  + **Because we are prone to comparison (18, *‘do not be arrogant towards…’*)**
* In context…Jews who had rejected the Gospel
  + **Because we are prone to drift away towards performance/works…**
* ‘Boasting’ in faith (11:22)…***’Note then….= ‘Behold’…kindness and severity…’*** (22)
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