

From the Lead Pastor's Desk for July 1

New This Week

Victory Youth Update

No Youth Group on Sunday, July 1.
Join us on July 8 as we kick off our Summer Victory Youth sharing youth pastor with Northside Community Church. Leave the Church at 5:30pm in the van and return by 8:30 pm. Looking forward to a fun summer with activities, growing in our faith, and meeting new people.

Please keep Pastor Jim and Janet in your prayers as they spend a week of vacation at the Cannon Beach Christian Conference Center with their grand-kids and extended family for a time of rest, activity, and spiritual encouragement. they are leaving Sat and return on July 7.

Have you ever heard someone say, "The Jews rejected Christ, so God has rejected the Jews?" That statement contradicts the teaching of Scripture. In our studies of Romans 11, starting with verse one, the Apostle Paul gives a 7-fold rebuttal of this "rejection idea" when he writes, "...Has God rejected away his people? God forbid..."

1. The Covenantal Argument. Rom 11:1 Paul refers to Israel as still being God's people. There remains a special covenantal relationship between God and Israel, even though Israel as a nation did not recognize her Messiah. God's promises do not fail. In Jeremiah 31:35-37 God promises that as long as the sun, moon, and stars continue to exist, the seed of Israel will remain a special nation before him.

2. The Biographical Argument. Paul writes further in Rom. 11:1 that his own encounter as a Jew with the living Christ, and his calling to preach the gospel are evidence that the Jews are still God's people.

3. The Theological Argument in Rom. 11:2 is based on the foreknowledge of God, should be no surprise to the Almighty that all Israel did not accept his Messiah. In fact, it was predicted in the Old Testament. Isaiah wrote, "He is despised and rejected...he was despised, and we esteemed him not" (53:3). God knew that this would happen, and Israel's rejection of the Messiah was part of his universal plan.

4. The Historical Argument is from Rom. 11:2-10. There has always been just a minority within Israel (called the remnant) that has been faithful to God.

5. The Argument of Origins in Rom. 11:16 is a logical argument that good beginnings result in good endings: the Jewish people and the promises and covenants to the fathers were good; they will eventually result in a good conclusion.

6. The Botanical Argument in Rom. 11:17-24 Paul says that it is natural for the natural branch (the Jews) to be grafted back into the original olive tree. If God can graft a wild olive branch (the Gentiles) into a cultivated olive tree, it's easy to expect him to graft back the natural branches.

7. The Prophetic Argument is found in Rom. 11:25-27. Here Paul (undoubtedly from his knowledge of Hebrew Scripture) argues that Israel's hardening is only partial and temporary, for there is coming a time when God will once again resume his dealing with Israel—when the fullness of the Gentiles has come in, and all Israel will be saved (see Zechariah 12:10). Who is the Israel of verse 26? It is the same Israel of verse 25 which has been partially blinded.

From these seven arguments in Romans 11, we can see that Israel is still God's earthly people, Paul, a Jew, was called and used mightily of God. We also see Israel's general unbelief was in God's foreknowledge and part of his universal plan of salvation. And there has always been just a faithful minority within Israel, a "remnant" who truly experience God's grace.

VOLUNTEERS

We are very grateful for our many volunteers that serve faithfully week after week as well as those who step forward to meet periodic needs that come up in our church family. If you would like to volunteer in any area please contact Nancy D or complete the tear off page in Sunday's bulletin and place it in the offering bag.

www.vcflynden.com

Ministries for Serving Your VCF Family

Worship-singing, playing an instrument, operating the soundboard

Children's Ministry, being part of a teaching team or assisting a teacher

Men's Ministry-share your faith story, cook for a breakfast, facilitate a Bible study

Women's Ministry- be part of the planning team, facilitate a Bible study, Partner with another woman in our Heart to Heart Partnering, share your faith story at a LOV Café

Youth-be available to provide transportation for meetings and activities, be a mentor or prayer partner, host a youth event, provide snacks

Fellowship-be on a rotational list to prepare snacks for fellowship on Sunday

Greeting-greet and take offering on a rotational basis for Sunday service

Hospitality-reach out to guests to help them get connected to our VCF family

REACH-be part of an intergenerational team that plans events for our VCF family

Ministry Support Team- create a team to keep our leadership refreshed

A complete calendar of events is located at www.vcflynden.com but here are this week's highlights!

Saturday

Prayer as a Priority 7 am@ ministry center

Sunday

8:45 Class on Psalms Room 3. Please see John Meenk for details.

Special Guest Speaker: Pastor David Garcia from New Jerusalem Church

Tuesday

Prayer 1-5pm in Ruth's home Pray about anything on your heart! If you are willing to be a part of passionate prayer for prodigals, please e-mail Ruth at rnleon50@msn.com.

Thursday

Membership informational Meeting Thursday June 28, noon or 6pm.

A number of folks have expressed interest in becoming a member of Victory. There will be 2 upcoming informational meetings in which you can have your questions answered by the pastor and leadership. **Please RSVP at 360-354-8055**

12:00 noon with a light lunch served in the pastor's office.

6:00 pm evening at the church with a light dinner served.

LOV Bible study and prayer 9:30-11:30 at Ruth's home to resume in the fall

Prayer 1-5pm in Ruth's home Pray about anything on your heart! If you are willing to be a part of passionate prayer for prodigals, please e-mail Ruth at rnleon50@msn.com.



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