

## Romans 11, Daily Devotions

### ☐ Monday - The Narrow Way.

Romans 11:2-5

Elijah cried out against Israel, “Lord, they have killed Thy prophets, they have torn down Thine altars, and I alone am left, and they are seeking my life.” But the Lord replied, “I have kept for Myself seven thousand men who have not bowed the knee to Baal” (Rom. 11:3-4). In every generation there are many that speed along the six lane highway to hell, but relatively few that choose the narrow road that leads to eternal life (Mt. 7:13-14). And so, along the narrow, sometimes lonely path that leads to heaven, we should expect not a great many travelling companions. Yes, and through certain narrow passages along our journey, we must walk single-file and sometimes all alone. But in those places where the path widens out, if there are other pilgrims just ahead, make every effort to catch up to them. For the Lord provides these special times of fellowship and refreshment to encourage us along our way. Read Ecclesiastes 4:9-10

### ☐ Tuesday - The Causes and Cure for a Hard Heart.

Romans 11:8

We have already read in Romans, God “has mercy on whom He desires, and He hardens whom He desires” (Rom. 9:18), and here we read, “Just as it is written, ‘God gave them a spirit of stupor, eyes to see not and ears to hear not, down to this very day’” (Rom. 11:8). But when God hardens a person’s heart, He does not tempt them to do evil, for “God cannot be tempted by evil, and He Himself does not tempt anyone” (James 1:13). No, rather He gives them over to their own evil desires (Rom. 1:24, 26, 28). This is what we see concerning pharaoh: God hardened pharaoh’s heart (Ex. 9:12, 10:1, 10:20, 10:27, 11:10, 14:8), and pharaoh hardened his own heart (Ex. 8:15, 8:32, 9:34). And so, as the heart slowly hardens, sins that once made the palms to sweat and the heart to beat faster cease to offend the conscience. But there is only one remedy for such a condition: Run to the Great Physician! Only confession, repentance and the grace of God can make a hard heart soft.

Read Psalm 51

### ☐ Wednesday - True Branches.

Romans 11:17-24

Here, the apostle Paul likens a person’s relationship with Jesus Christ to an olive tree. But just as in Old Testament Israel, so also in the New Testament Church, a person can appear to be attached to the Lord and His people and even enjoy some benefits of that attachment, but really not be a true believer at all (Rom. 11:20; Jn. 15:6). Only those who abide (believe) demonstrate they are true branches (1 John 2:19). Read Jn. 15:1-8

### ☐ Thursday - Infinite Wisdom & Knowledge.

Romans 11:33

Is there a problem in your life right now that you just can’t seem to solve? Have you racked your brain and still can’t figure out the answer? Do not despair, Christian, there is One you can go to who understands your problems perfectly. He knows the answer: He is the answer. He is the Lord and “His understanding is infinite” (Psa. 147:5), “inscrutable” (Isa. 40:28), beyond measure. Take your problems to Him, He is “perfect in knowledge” (Job 36:4, 37:16). You and I only see part of the equation, but He sees all of the variables; He has all of the data. “Oh, the depth of the riches both of the wisdom and knowledge of God! How unsearchable are His judgments and unfathomable His ways!” (Rom. 11:33).

Read Isaiah 55:9; Proverbs 3:5-6

### ☐ Friday - To God be the Glory.

Romans 11:36

What does it mean to be a Christian in everyday practice? Well, it means a lot of things, but first it means that one is not self-centered but Christ-centered. Can you honestly say, “For to me to live is Christ”? (Phil. 1:21). Do your family, friends, neighbors, coworkers or schoolmates know that the Lord is the main attraction, the focal point, and the centerpiece of your life? Do your words, thoughts and actions reflect Him? These are good tests to see if we are truly in the faith (2 Cor. 13:5). Let this be our standard operating procedure: “For from Him and through Him and to Him are all things. To Him be the glory forever. Amen” (Rom. 11:36). Read Romans 14:7-8; 1 Corinthians 10:31