

## The Book of Romans

### The Gospel of God

Behold then the kindness and severity of God; to those who fell, severity, but to you, God's kindness, if you continue in His kindness; otherwise you also will be cut off.

(Romans 11:22)



**Olive Tree** = the people of God spanning both ages

**Root** = the patriarchs/promises

**Natural Branches** = Israelites

**Wild Branches** = Gentiles

<sup>16</sup> If the first piece *of dough* is holy, the lump is also; and if the root is holy, the branches are too.

<sup>17</sup> But if some of the branches were broken off, and you, being a wild olive, were grafted in among them and became partaker with them of the rich root of the olive tree,

<sup>18</sup> do not be arrogant toward the branches; but if you are arrogant, *remember that* it is not you who supports the root, but the root *supports* you.

<sup>19</sup> You will say then, "Branches were broken off so that I might be grafted in."

<sup>20</sup> True, they were broken off for their unbelief, but you stand by your faith. Do not be conceited, but fear;

<sup>21</sup> for if God did not spare the natural branches, neither will He spare you.

<sup>22</sup> Behold then the kindness and severity of God; to those who fell, severity, but to you, God's kindness, if you continue in His kindness; otherwise you also will be cut off.

(Romans 11:16-22)

### 1. Command

➤ Consider (look at!) the *kindness* and *severity* of God

- God's "severity" refers to His wrath and retributive justice as displayed against unbelieving Israel
- God's "kindness" refers to His undeserved favor (goodness) as displayed toward Gentile believers

## 2. Warning

- Not continuing in faith will result in being cut off
  - final salvation from God's wrath is contingent on a continuing faith in Christ

<sup>1</sup> Now I make known to you, brethren, the gospel which I preached to you, which also you received, in which also you stand, <sup>2</sup> by which also you are saved, if you hold fast the word which I preached to you, unless you believed in vain.  
(1 Corinthians 15:1-2)

<sup>22</sup> yet He has now reconciled you in His fleshly body through death, in order to present you before Him holy and blameless and beyond reproach— <sup>23</sup> if indeed you continue in the faith firmly established and steadfast, and not moved away from the hope of the gospel that you have heard...  
(Colossians 1:22-23)

<sup>6</sup> but Christ *was faithful* as a Son over His house—whose house we are, if we hold fast our confidence and the boast of our hope firm until the end. (Hebrews 3:6)

<sup>14</sup> For we have become partakers of Christ, if we hold fast the beginning of our assurance firm until the end. (Hebrews 3:14)

## 2. Warning

- Not continuing in faith will result in being cut off
  - final salvation from God's wrath is contingent on a continuing faith in Christ
  - these type of warnings are a means used by God to persevere His people to the end

## Conclusion:

- The aim of looking at God's severity is to keep us in His kindness