



God's Eternal Plan: Celebrate, Dedicate, and Anticipate

Pastor Todd Chapman
Sunday, October 30, 2011

ROMANS: The Righteousness
of God Revealed



Thought on Romans 9-11

The topics of predestination and foreknowledge have proven to be unsettling to us. They have brought us to question our understanding and the faith we had prior to being confronted by these concepts. We may have never really examined our faith critically before, a faith we embraced but never came back to examine. Paul has introduced challenging questions that may challenge our initial understanding.

So why would Paul write this disturbing, controversial, and unsettling stuff? Did Paul hope we would understand how God works his plan? Did he hope to explain God's mind? Surely he did not do this to bring strife among believers or create doubt in the heart of a believer! Maybe this was just for the Jews and we got a copy by mistake?



Thought on Romans 9-11

I think not. I am persuaded that the ultimate purpose Paul had in discussing the topic was not to illuminate - not to explain how it works, but to confront us with the limit of our understanding, to make us realize the limit of our ability to control or to even understand, while at the same time showing that God can be trusted even though we can't understand him. The incomprehensibility of the subject of predestination places us in the position of simply having to trust God, to really believe we are totally dependent on his grace and love, not the power of our praying words or the correctness of our confession. We have to trust God that he really will do what he says, that he is merciful, and that we have no control in any way over his action.



Thought on Romans 9-11

And that may be the ultimate reason for this passage in chapters 9-11, that WE would see that God is trustworthy and that we must trust in him fully - there is no other option for us to take.

We say God is in control. However, rather than accepting it we struggle with it and search for rules to keep Him accountable to an overarching standard that we think we understand -(like love or justice). But we finally must accept that there is no other God.



Romans 11:11-16

[11] So I ask, did they stumble in order that they might fall? By no means! Rather through their trespass salvation has come to the Gentiles, so as to make Israel jealous. [12] Now if their trespass means riches for the world, and if their failure means riches for the Gentiles, how much more will their full inclusion mean! [13] Now I am speaking to you Gentiles. Inasmuch then as I am an apostle to the Gentiles, I magnify my ministry [14] in order somehow to make my fellow Jews jealous, and thus save some of them.



Romans 11:11-16

[15] For if their rejection means the reconciliation of the world, what will their acceptance mean but life from the dead? [16] If the dough offered as firstfruits is holy, so is the whole lump, and if the root is holy, so are the branches.



God's Timeline

(God's Eternal Plan as revealed to and by Paul)

1

Israel's
stumbling
brings
gospel to
Gentiles

2

Gentile
salvation
makes the
Jews
jealous


3

Israel's full
inclusion
brings
greater
riches to all
believers

Jesus
returns



In order to encourage our growing trust in God Paul describes more specifically God's eternal plan. Comprehending God's plan will move us to celebrate, dedicate and anticipate.

A silhouette of a person standing on a hill, looking up at a sunset sky. Two trees are visible on either side of the person. The scene is dark, with the person and trees appearing as black shapes against the bright, orange and yellow light of the setting sun.

Celebrate: As we increasingly appreciate God's eternal plan we will celebrate.



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A silhouette of a person standing on a hill, looking towards a sunset sky. Two trees are visible on either side of the person. The scene is dark, with the sky showing a gradient of colors from blue to orange.

Stage 1

Israel's stumbling brings gospel to
Gentiles

A dark, textured stone path leading from the foreground into the distance. The path is composed of irregular, rounded stones and is set against a dark, textured background that suggests a field or a forest floor. The overall tone is dark and atmospheric.

A silhouette of a person standing on a hill, pointing upwards, against a sunset sky. The scene is framed by two trees on either side.

Matthew 21:42-43

[42] Jesus said to them, “Have you never read in the Scriptures: “The stone that the builders rejected has become the cornerstone; this was the Lord's doing, and it is marvelous in our eyes’? [43] Therefore I tell you, the kingdom of God will be taken away from you and given to a people producing its fruits.

A silhouette of a person standing on a hill, pointing upwards, against a sunset sky. The scene is framed by two trees on either side.

Acts 18:5-6

[5] When Silas and Timothy arrived from Macedonia, Paul was occupied with the word, testifying to the Jews that the Christ was Jesus. [6] And when they opposed and reviled him, he shook out his garments and said to them, “Your blood be on your own heads! I am innocent. From now on I will go to the Gentiles.”

A silhouette of a person standing on a hill, looking up at a sunset sky. The person is in the center, with their right arm raised. The sky is a mix of orange, yellow, and blue. There are trees on either side of the person.

Stage 2

Gentile salvation makes the Jews jealous

A dark, textured path made of stones or pebbles, leading from the foreground into the distance. The path is slightly curved and recedes into the background. The overall scene is dark and atmospheric.

A silhouette of a person standing on a hill, looking out over a landscape at sunset. The sky is a mix of orange and blue, and there are trees on either side of the person.

Romans 10:19,20

[19] But I ask, did Israel not understand? First Moses says, “I will make you jealous of those who are not a nation; with a foolish nation I will make you angry.” [20] Then Isaiah is so bold as to say, “I have been found by those who did not seek me; I have shown myself to those who did not ask for me.”

A silhouette of a person standing on a hill, raising their right hand in a gesture of blessing or teaching. The background is a sunset sky with soft orange and yellow light. Two trees are visible on either side of the person.


Acts 13:44-45

[44] The next Sabbath almost the whole city gathered to hear the word of the Lord. [45] But when the Jews saw the crowds, they were filled with jealousy and began to contradict what was spoken by Paul, reviling him.

A silhouette of a person standing on a hill, looking up at a sunset sky. Two trees are visible on either side of the person. The scene is dark, with the sky showing warm colors from the setting sun.

Stage 3

Israel's full inclusion brings greater riches
to all believers – Jesus returns

A dark, textured stone path leading into the distance, set against a dark background. The path is made of irregular stones and leads towards the horizon.

A silhouette of a person standing on a hill, looking out over a landscape at sunset. The sky is a mix of orange and blue, and there are trees on either side of the person.

Romans 11:25-27

[25] Lest you be wise in your own sight, I do not want you to be unaware of this mystery, brothers: a partial hardening has come upon Israel, until the fullness of the Gentiles has come in. [26] And in this way all Israel will be saved, as it is written, “The Deliverer will come from Zion, he will banish ungodliness from Jacob”; [27] “and this will be my covenant with them when I take away their sins.”



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Romans 8:28

[28] And we know that for those who love God all things work together for good, for those who are called according to his purpose.



Romans 8:37

[37] No, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him who loved us.



Dedicate: As we increasingly embrace God's eternal plan we will gladly dedicate ourselves to the role he has for us.

A silhouette of a person standing on a hill, looking up at a sunset sky. The person is in the center, with their right arm raised. The sky is a mix of orange, yellow, and blue. There are trees on either side of the person.

Stage 2

Gentile salvation makes the Jews jealous

A dark, textured path made of stones or pebbles, leading from the foreground into the distance. The path is slightly curved and recedes into the background. The overall tone is dark and moody.

A silhouette of a person standing on a hill, looking up at a sunset sky. Two trees are visible on either side of the person. The scene is dark, with the sky showing warm colors from the setting sun.

Our Vision

To build joy-filled communities of faith
whose very existence inspires
every individual to live R3.




Anticipate: As we increasingly value God's eternal plan we will joyfully anticipate the consummation of it.

A silhouette of a person standing on a hill, looking up at a sunset sky. The person's right arm is raised. The sky is a mix of orange, yellow, and blue. There are trees on either side of the person.

Stage 3

Israel's full inclusion brings greater riches
to all believers – Jesus returns

A dark, textured stone path leading from the bottom center towards the horizon. The path is made of irregular, rounded stones. The background is a dark, textured landscape, possibly a field or a forest floor, with a dark horizon line at the top.

A silhouette of a person standing on a hill, looking up with one hand raised, against a sunset sky. Two trees are visible on either side of the person.

Romans 11:25-26a

[25] Lest you be wise in your own sight, I do not want you to be unaware of this mystery, brothers: a partial hardening has come upon Israel, until the fullness of the Gentiles has come in. [26] And in this way all Israel will be saved...



1 Corinthians 15:50-57

[50] I tell you this, brothers: flesh and blood cannot inherit the kingdom of God, nor does the perishable inherit the imperishable. [51] Behold! I tell you a mystery. We shall not all sleep, but we shall all be changed, [52] in a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trumpet. For the trumpet will sound, and the dead will be raised imperishable, and we shall be changed. [53] For this perishable body must put on the imperishable, and this mortal body must put on immortality.

A silhouette of a person standing on a hill, looking up with one hand raised, against a sunset sky. The scene is framed by two trees on either side.

1 Corinthians 15:50-57

[54] When the perishable puts on the imperishable, and the mortal puts on immortality, then shall come to pass the saying that is written: “Death is swallowed up in victory.” [55] “O death, where is your victory? O death, where is your sting?” [56] The sting of death is sin, and the power of sin is the law. [57] But thanks be to God, who gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ.