God the Arborist

### Discovering the Righteousness of God—A study in the book of Roman

# Pastor Josh Muchmore

## Romans 11:11-24 (ESV)

# Romans 9:31-32 (ESV)

**31**but that Israel who pursued a law that would lead to righteousness[[a](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Romans+9%3A31-32&version=ESV#fen-ESV-28171a)] did not succeed in reaching that law. **32**Why? Because they did not pursue it by faith, but as if it were based on works. They have stumbled over the stumbling stone,

# Romans 11:11-24 (ESV)

**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[[a](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Romans+11%3A11-24&version=ESV#fen-ESV-28206a)] 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. **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.

**17**But if some of the branches were broken off, and you, although a wild olive shoot, were grafted in among the others and now share in the nourishing root[[b](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Romans+11%3A11-24&version=ESV#fen-ESV-28211b)] of the olive tree, **18**do not be arrogant toward the branches. If you are, remember it is not you who support the root, but the root that supports you. **19**Then you will say, “Branches were broken off so that I might be grafted in.” **20**That is true. They were broken off because of their unbelief, but you stand fast through faith. So do not become proud, but fear. **21**For if God did not spare the natural branches, neither will he spare you. **22**Note then the kindness and the severity of God: severity toward those who have fallen, but God's kindness to you, provided you continue in his kindness. Otherwise you too will be cut off. **23**And even they, if they do not continue in their unbelief, will be grafted in, for God has the power to graft them in again. **24**For if you were cut from what is by nature a wild olive tree, and grafted, contrary to nature, into a cultivated olive tree, how much more will these, the natural branches, be grafted back into their own olive tree.

1. Grafting into a strong tree revives formerly-decaying olive branches, and also helps the whole tree to bear more fruit.
2. Grafting is also used to enhance the diversity of the olives.
3. New branches can only be put in if the tree has strong roots.
4. New branches can only be put in if others are broken off.
5. **God (the arborist) is always good** …even His breaking!

22 Note then the **kindness** and the **severity** of God.

**2) God (the arborist) is always good …the severity of His breaking stimulates jealousy for the Jews.**

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**.

13 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**.

**3) God (the arborist) is always good …the kindness of His breaking allows grafting**

**for the Gentiles.**

11 Through their trespass **salvation has come to the Gentiles**.

12 Their failure means **riches for the Gentiles**.

15 Their rejection means the **reconciliation of the world**.

17 Some of the branches were broken off, and you, although a wild olive shoot, were **grafted in among the others and now share in the nourishing root of the olive tree**.

**4) this Arborist is not bound by nature.**

16 If the dough offered as firstfruits is holy, so is the whole lump, and if the root is holy, so are the branches. 17 But if some of the branches were broken off … 20 they were broken off because of their unbelief.

23 And even they, if they do not continue in their unbelief, will be grafted in, for **God has the power to graft them in again**. 24 For if you were cut from what is by nature a wild olive tree, and grafted, **contrary to nature**, into a cultivated olive tree, how much more will these, the natural branches, be grafted back into their own olive tree.

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!

15 If their rejection means the reconciliation of the world, what will their acceptance mean but life from the dead?

**5) God (the arborist) is to be feared (reverently).**

18 **Do not be arrogant** toward the branches. If you are, remember it is not you who support the root, but the root that supports you. 19 Then you will say, “Branches were broken off so that I might be grafted in.” 20 That is true. They were broken off because of their unbelief, but you stand fast through faith. So **do not became proud, but fear**. 21 For if God did not spare the natural branches, neither will He spare you. 22 Note then the kindness and the severity of God: severity toward those who have fallen, but God’s kindness to you, provided you continue in His kindness. **Otherwise you too will be cut off.**

**John 15:1-2, 5-6**

**[Jesus]: 1 “I am the true vine, and my Father is the vinedresser. 2 Every branch in me that does not bear fruit He takes away, and every branch that does bear fruit He prunes that it may bear more fruit. 5 I am the vine, you are the branches. Whoever abides in me and I in him, he it is that bears much fruit, for apart from me you can do nothing. 6 If anyone does not abide in me he is thrown away like a branch and withers; and the branches are gathered, thrown into the fire, and burned.”**

**God the arborist:  
Revere Him, be humble before Him (and others!), abide in Him, and marvel at His supernatural grafting abilities**