

¹⁴ But how are they to call upon him, when they are not faithful? And how are they to be faithful, when they have not listened? And how are they to listen without preaching? ¹⁵ And how are they to preach, if they have not been sent? Just as it is written in Isaiah 52, “*How beautiful are the feet of those who are bringing the good things of the Gospel.*” ¹⁶ But not all have obeyed the Gospel. For Isaiah 53 says, “*Lord, who has been faithful to our teaching?*” ¹⁷ Faithfulness comes from listening—listening to Christ’s word! ¹⁸ But I say, did they not hear? They certainly have! As Psalm 19 says, “*Their voice has gone out into all the earth! Their words into every corner of Civilization!*” ¹⁹ But I say, did Israel not know? First Moses says in Deuteronomy 32, “*I will provoke you to jealousy with a non-ethnic-group. With an ignorant ethnic-group I will provoke you to anger.*” ²⁰ And Isaiah 65 is bold and it says, “*I was found by those who did not seek me. I was revealed to those who did not ask for me.*” ²¹ Then to Israel it says, “*All day long I spread out my hands to a disobedient and defiant people.*”

^{11.1} Then I say, has the Creator thrown away his people? Absolutely not! For I am also an Israelite from the seed of Abraham, the tribe of Benjamin. ² The Creator has not thrown away his people that he foreknew! Do you not know what the Scripture says about Elijah as he intercedes to the Creator against Israel? ³ He says in 1 Kings 19, “*Lord, they killed your prophets and demolished your altars! I am left all alone and now they are seeking to destroy my life!*” ⁴ But what is the response to Elijah? “*I have retained for myself seven thousand people who have not bowed their knees to Baal.*” ⁵ In this way, there is now in this time a remnant who have been called out by generosity. ⁶ But if it is by generosity, then it is no longer from works, otherwise the generosity would no longer be generosity.

⁷ What then? What Israel was seeking, they did not attain. But those called out, did attain it. And the rest have been hardened. ⁸ Just as it is written in Deuteronomy 29, “*The Creator gave them a callous spirit, eyes that would not see and ears that would not listen, up to this very day.*” ⁹ And David says in Psalm 69, “*Let their table become a pitfall and a trap, a stumbling block and natural consequence for them.*” ¹⁰ *Darken their eyes so they cannot see and bend their backs under continual oppression.*” ¹¹ Therefore, I ask, did they stumble so that they might fall away? Absolutely not! But by their transgression, salvation came to the ethnic-groups to make them jealous. ¹² And if their transgression brings riches for the cosmos and their decrease brings riches for the ethnic-groups, then how much more will their fullness bring? ¹³ I am speaking to you ethnic-groups, for above all I am an apostle to the ethnic-groups. I glory in my ministry to the ethnic-groups. ¹⁴ If I might somehow provoke my people of the flesh to jealousy, then I will save some of them. ¹⁵ For if their rejection brings reconciliation to the cosmos, then what will their acceptance bring other than life from the dead?

¹⁶ Now if the firstfruits are holy, then the whole is also holy. If the root is holy, then the branches are also holy. ¹⁷ Some of the branches were broken off and you wild branches were grafted in among them and you are now in full communion with the richness of the root. ¹⁸ Do not boast over the lost branches! You do not sustain

the root, but the root sustains you! ¹⁹ Then you might say, “The branches were broken off so that I might be grafted in.” ²⁰ Beautifully said! They were broken off by their unfaithfulness, but you stand by faithfulness. Do not be arrogant! Be afraid! ²¹ For if the Creator did not spare the natural branches, then he will definitely not spare you! ²² Therefore, pay attention to the kindness and discipline of the Creator. His discipline is upon those who have fallen. And the Creator’s kindness is upon you, if you remain in his kindness. If you do not, then you will be chopped off. ²³ And besides, if the natural branches do not remain in unfaithfulness, then they will be grafted in. For the Creator is able to graft them in again. ²⁴ For if you yourselves were cut off from your natural wild tree and, against nature, grafted onto a cultivated tree, then how much more will these natural branches be grafted back onto their own tree?

²⁵ I do not want you to be ignorant of this mystery, otherwise you will be selfish in your thinking. The hardening of part of Israel has happened to allow the fullness of the ethnic-groups to come in. ²⁶ And through this, all of Israel will be saved, just as it is written in Isaiah 59, “*The rescuer will come from Zion and he will remove the irreverent from Jacob.*” ²⁷ *This is my covenant with them, whenever I take away their sins.*” ²⁸ According to the Gospel, the people of Israel are enemies for your sake. According to their calling, they are loved for the sake of the fathers. ²⁹ For the gifts and calling of the Creator are without regret. ³⁰ Likewise, you were once disobedient to the Creator, but now you have mercy through their disobedience. ³¹ They were disobedient for your mercy, so that they also may now have mercy. ³² For the Creator has captured all in disobedience, so that he may have mercy on them all. ³³ Oh the depth of riches and wisdom and knowledge of the Creator! His judgments are unsearchable and his ways are incomprehensible! ³⁴ As it says in Isaiah 40, “*For who can know the mind of the Lord? Or who can be his advisor?*” ³⁵ As it says in Job 41, “*Or who has first given to the Creator so that the Creator needs to repay him?*” ³⁶ From him and through him and in him are all things! To him be glory into the ages, amen!