

Olive branches (Romans 11:11-24)

Introduction

- Which verse shows that pride is dangerous?
- What was the attitude of some of the Gentile Christians in the church at Rome to the Jewish Christians?
- Why, according to v11, is this attitude wrong?

i Do not sneer

- What three statements does Paul keep making in v11-15?
  - (i)
  - (ii)
  - (iii)
- Why might Jews become envious on seeing salvation come to the Gentiles (v11)?
- What is Paul's ulterior motive in working wholly and unreservedly as apostle to the Gentiles (v13-14)?
- What is the first lesson we ought to learn from these verses?
- What sort of people should grace make us?
- What should you do if your life is not as attractive as it should be?
- Why is that important for every member of the church?
- What is the second lesson we ought to learn from these verses?
- What do Paul's words in v12 and v15 express whenever a Jewish person becomes a Christian?
- How should this give us confidence whenever we are witnessing to religious people who are not Christians?

## ii Do not swagger

- What illustration does Paul introduce in **v16**?
- Who does the olive tree stand for?
- Who do the roots stand for?
- Who do the branches stand for?
- Who do **v17**'s broken-off branches stand for?
- Why, according to **v18**, can Gentile Christians not boast over the Jews?
- Why, in **v19-21**, were some of the cultivated branches broken off?
- Why were some wild branches grafted in?
- How can the Gentile Christians deal with their boastful tendencies according to **v22**?
- Why might focusing on God's kindness and sternness help them?
- What hope is there for the Jews in **v23-24**?
- What is the first lesson we ought to learn from these verses?
- Why is this the case for Christians especially?
- What is the second lesson we ought to learn from these verses?
- Why does this passage bother some Christians?
- What did **Romans 8:38-39** teach us?
- What is true of real faith?
- How can you help yourself to persevere?
- What is the third lesson we ought to learn from these verses?
- How can you make sure you are on the olive tree?

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