



## International Bible Study Commentary

Verse-by-Verse Bible Lessons Thru the Bible

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### **Romans 11:11-24 Study Hints for Discussion**

#### **1. When Paul “failed” in his outreach to the Jews, what did he do and how did he feel about it?**

Paul preached to the Gentiles and led many to faith in Jesus the Messiah. He felt sorry for those who rejected Jesus and knew that some could still repent and turn to true faith in Jesus later. He felt thankful to God for his ministry to the Gentiles, and hoped he still might save some of the Jews.

#### **2. What did Paul mean by “the world” and the reconciliation of “the world.”**

“The world” is people of every race and nationality. Through faith in Jesus Christ, people in the world, not only the Jews, could come into a right relationship with God (be reconciled)..

#### **3. When he used an olive tree as an illustration, how did Paul describe the Jews who rejected Jesus and what could happen to them?**

Paul described them as branches that had been broken off the olive tree because of their unbelief. If they did not persist in their unbelief, they could be grafted in again if they trusted in Jesus Christ as the Messiah, their personal Lord and Savior.

#### **4. How did Paul use an olive tree to describe Gentiles who believed in Jesus?**

They were wild branches that had been grafted in so they could share the nourishing sap of the olive root.

## **5. What warning did Paul give the Gentile Christians?**

Do not become arrogant or feel superior to the Jews “the other branches.” Instead, Gentile Christians are to tremble, fear, stand in awe (compare translations of Romans 11:20). Since God did not spare the natural branches but punished them, He can punish (or discipline) the branches that He grafted in; God can also cut them off from the nourishing sap. Therefore, Gentile Christians need to be kind toward the Jews and remain in God’s kindness or suffer the possible consequences.

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