

## **Lent Day 26**

Thursday March 26, 2017

### **Reading:** Romans 11:11-24

*22 Consider therefore the kindness and sternness of God: sternness to those who fell, but kindness to you, provided that you continue in his kindness. Otherwise, you also will be cut off.*

### **Reflection**

In our modern Canadian society there is a streak of arrogance running through us when it comes to God. I take in a lot of media: books, tv, movies, social media, etc. It seems to me that there are times when we think of God as this 'thing' that is 'up there' and he wants something from us, maybe even us ourselves. So, we begin to think of him as a begger of sorts. He has a demand and we are the supply, so he needs to accept our terms. The streak concludes, God is lucky to get what he gets, he can't be too choosy.

This results in a total lack of discipleship, of course, but it also results in us forgetting the order of salvation. We are not saved because we give something to God. We are saved because he acted to save us and he has called us into saving relationship with him. We are his only because he has made us his own — that's pure grace, or kindness as Paul puts it here.

But when we forget about this grace and begin to presume on God's good character we are no longer standing in the faith, we have moved into unbelief and that God will not tolerate. So Paul issues a warning to remain in faith, because while God is kind, he is also stern. He doesn't take what he can get, he demands our whole selves. In short, our salvation is by his grace from beginning to end and we can must never take it for granted.

This lent, examine where your attitude is. Are you continuing in God's grace in Christ? Or, have you begun to view your self as owed something by God? The old hymn says, with nothing in my hand I come to you. That is the picture of receiving God's grace.

### **Prayer**

Holy God, thank you for your kindness and in your kindness your caution. Help us to walk in your grace and to never take your salvation for granted. Amen.