

Eight Point Sub-Summary
Of
The Kindness and Severity of God
Romans 11:22

- 1) Paul's gospel was in the minority view during his day and remains the minority view today; this is why he proclaimed, "I am not ashamed of the gospel" (Romans 1:16-17).
- 2) Paul's gospel was considered shameful, scandalous, even heresy, by the majority of professed Christian leaders in his day and remains so today (Romans 3:5-8).
- 3) Paul's gospel was viewed as shameful because it eliminated any role for man in attaining the necessary righteousness by which one draws near to God (Romans 3:21-31).
- 4) The religious mind of the natural man (without the Spirit) insists that the role of man in attaining righteousness be the vital contributing factor apart from which God cannot save you. This was the view of those who opposed Paul.
- 5) Paul's gospel was rejected by the majority, yet the elect heard and were saved by believing from the heart the apostolic "form of teaching" (Romans 6:15-23).
- 6) Paul's gospel presents progressive sanctification as the necessary result of justification by faith, so that we move from being "slaves to sin" to "slaves to righteousness."
- 7) The elect of God, are known *not* by their doctrinal statement alone, as important as that is, but by their progress in Christlike character also (Romans 8:28-30).
- 8) Saving faith begins in the mind, but must move to the heart to be saving; the heart is in the primacy, though the mind be in the priority *of order*. The mind is the gateway to the heart with a changed heart as the goal. Right knowledge (truth in the intellect) precedes a righteous heart (feeling and trust) (Romans 6:17; 8:5-8; 12:1-2).