

Believe

Scripture

“You will say then, “Branches were broken off that I might be grafted in.” Well *said*. Because of unbelief they were broken off, and you stand by faith. Do not be haughty, but fear. For if God did not spare the natural branches, He may not spare you either. Therefore consider the goodness and severity of God: on those who fell, severity; but toward you, goodness, if you continue in *His* goodness. Otherwise you also will be cut off.” (Ro 11:19-22 NKJV)

Commentary

Paul, speaking to the believing Gentiles issues a warning. The warning was given because the Gentiles were tempted to think they now held a position of favor over the Jews. It is easy to see how much pull this would have on them since they had been despised by the Jews for so long. The Jews avoided the Gentiles like they had the plague.

Paul makes a very important comment on this subject. He says the branches [the Jews] were broken off because of unbelief. Furthermore, those who stand, stand in faith.

So what does this unbelief look like? Is Paul saying one must throw off God altogether and become an atheist to suffer separation from God? The Scriptures give us some insight into this important matter.

“Blessed *are* those servants whom the master, when he comes, will find watching. Assuredly, I say to you that he will gird himself and have them sit down *to eat*, and will come and serve them. And if he should come in the second watch, or come in the third watch, and find *them* so, blessed are those servants. But know this, that if the master of the house had known what hour the thief would come, he would have watched and not allowed his house to be broken into. Therefore you also be ready, for the Son of Man is coming at an hour you do not expect. Then Peter said to Him, ‘Lord, do You speak this parable *only* to us, or to all *people*?’ And the Lord said, ‘Who then is that faithful and wise steward, whom *his* master will make ruler over his household, to give *them their* portion of food in due season? Blessed *is* that servant whom his master will find so doing when he comes. Truly, I say to you that he will make him ruler over all that he has. But if that servant says in his heart, ‘My master is delaying his coming,’ and begins to beat the male and female servants, and to eat and drink and be drunk, the master of that servant will come on a day when he is not looking for *him*, and at an hour when he is not aware, and will cut him in two and appoint *him* his portion with the unbelievers.’” (Lu 12:37-46 NKJV)

Let us be careful to watch until the end. Remain steadfast in your faith. That means to continue to walk in faith. The Scriptures say two things about faith: “. . . he who comes to God must believe that He is, and that He is a rewarder of those who diligently seek Him.” (Heb 11:6 NKJV) It is not enough to believe that He exists. You must also believe that He is a rewarder of those who diligently seek Him. After all, even the demons believe He exists (Jas 2:19).