

## Remember, Remember... what?

- What did we remember with Fireworks during the week?
  - note thing about some people thinking we were remembering Guy Fawkes as a good guy!
  - its easy to forget, even when we think we are remembering!
- Similar with Remembrance
  - what are we remembering?
  - not just the soldiers who died, but their sacrifice for others
- In the passage we will be looking at later Paul's main point is that we should "remember, remember" exactly what Jesus has achieved
  - and be really clear on that, not just thinking we remember...

## Introduction

- Whole section on Jews/Gentiles thing: (chapters 9-11)
  - argument, from our point of view, most clearly skips on to chapter 12!
  - but integral to Paul, a Jew, who is looking back to the OT for validation of his argument.
- Could God have mis-spoken? Was the OT wrong? If so, how can we be sure NT faith in Christ is right, and not itself to be superseded?
- And pastorally, how is this for us, who have friends and family who have some of the same Christian heritage, but have turned their back on God:
  - does this make the whole thing pointless?
  - is God somehow lessened, less able to save, a fickle God who has given up on some?

## Paul and the Jews

- How Paul feels about his own fellow Jews.
  - no self-righteousness here!
  - deep concern.... cf Emma wrt her parents.
  - not writing off, or acting as a kind of outcast, bitter because they have rejected his message, his way of looking at the world.
- Reflecting on how what he observes - most Jews are rejecting the Messiah, he is forced back to God's grace.
  - it isn't works;
  - it isn't background;
  - it's undeserved;
  - it's mercy;
  - it's repentance and faith - going back to God who yearns to forgive.
- He is reflecting that mercy, that undeserved choice in all the OT stories he alludes to:
  - Abraham - his coming into God's orb, his unfaithfulness, doubting God's promises;
  - his descendants counted through Isaac, the younger son, the child of promise not of nature;
  - Isaac's own twin sons, Jacob and Esau, younger loved, elder rejected, despite their moral behaviour, ultimately it was their humble trust in God that won out;
  - Moses - "I will have mercy on whom I have mercy", demonstrated in his life;
  - Prophet's image (Isaiah 29:16) of potter and clay pot - can we argue with our maker and say "its not fair!" - grace/mercy is not fair!;
  - Hosea and his unfaithful wife Gomer;
  - etc!

- There is an under-current of grace and mercy through the whole OT, exactly the same treatment as the Jews have received at the inauguration of the new covenant.
  - grace extended to the Gentiles is almost scandalous!

## Grace

- Scandal of grace....
- *Plug Philip Yancey book*
  - sadly, many reject this free offer
  - but we must be self-righteous - are we holding out this offer? Is this the place where sinners feel welcome? Is this the place where broken people feel welcome?