



Paul's Epistle to the Romans

Romans 9.30- 10.21

God's Righteousness Revealed in His
Dealing with Israel

Romans 9-II: God's Sovereign Choosing

1. **Context:** Rom 8 God's "working all things together for good" for those "called according to His Purpose" (foreknown, predestined, called, justified and glorified) created a mystery for His Chosen Israel
2. **Is Israel still His Chosen?** Rom9 Paul now reveals that God's dealings with Israel is a further revelation of the "righteousness of God"
 - a. First Paul extols God's right to make Sovereign choices as a Potter over clay and to harden any heart turned away from him
 - b. Then Paul reveals that God has chosen to show mercy instead of wrath to undeserving vessels (gentiles) to magnify His Patience
3. **Rom9 God's Word has not Failed:** His reaction to Israel's rejection: Chosen Remnant
 - a. Paul recites many **OT** verses where God foreknew Israel His chosen would reject His righteousness and break his covenant
 - b. Therefore God's plan was to always provide a **faithful remnant** from among them that He might be gracious and merciful

Revealing the Mystery for Christians

1. Many think **Rom 9-11** is a parenthesis to the gospel but actually this mystery of how God sovereignly deals with Israel to bring them into glorious Sonship is also the Lord's sovereign dealings with us
2. to understand **Rom 9-11** we started by first looking at **Rom.11.17-36** where the Mystery of God's Olive Tree explains His present pruning of both His chosen Jews and Gentiles
3. Then in **Rom 9** we saw that God's foreknowledge of Israel's failings by raising a remnant is also His way of keeping the Testimony of Jesus within His church through His **overcomers**
4. Tonight in **Rom 10** Paul reveals how God's righteousness has been wrongfully pursued by works rather than by faith
 - a. **Rom.9.30-33** first Paul declares that gentiles have received a righteousness by faith in Jesus Christ
 - b. Then in **Rom 10** Paul will show that a righteousness by faith in Him has always been the basis of salvation

Part One: **Romans 9.30-33** - Argument: How could gentiles attain righteousness and Israel fail?

Rom 9.30-31 ¶ What shall we say then? That Gentiles, who did not pursue righteousness, attained righteousness, even the righteousness which is by faith; but Israel, pursuing a law of righteousness, did not arrive at that law.

Rom 9.32-33 Why? Because they did not pursue it by faith, but as though it were by works. They stumbled over the stumbling stone, just as it is written, “BEHOLD, I LAY IN ZION A STONE OF STUMBLING AND A ROCK OF OFFENSE, AND HE WHO BELIEVES IN HIM WILL NOT BE DISAPPOINTED.”

1. The Jews are scandalized to hear that gentiles attained a righteousness without any effort on their part while they've been striving to keep the Law
2. The question answered: Israel is pursuing a **Law of righteousness** instead of a **King of righteousness**
 - a. Their efforts are not born of faith pursuing Him but confidence in themselves
 - b. Quoting **Isa.28.16** Paul declares they have blindly stumbled over the **Righteous One** by being offended by **the Cross**- the Messiah who is the very foundation stone of their salvation

Part One: **Romans 10.1-4** - Answer: Willful Spiritual Blindness Prevents their Seeing Christ as the End of the Law

Rom 10.1-4 Brethren, my heart's desire and my prayer to God for them is for their salvation. For I testify about them that they have a zeal for God, but not in accordance with knowledge. For not knowing about God's righteousness and seeking to establish their own, they did not subject themselves to the righteousness of God. For Christ is the end of the law for righteousness to everyone who believes.

1. Knowing the blind zeal he once had, Paul's desire and prayer is for Israel to see the **Righteous One**
2. Paul verily testifies on their behalf that their zeal is real but based upon legal knowledge not heart knowledge
3. Ironically they pursue righteousness with all their will power while refusing to subject their hearts to the Righteous Person they are trying to please.
4. They have an outer goal of salvation not a desire to know their Savior
5. The Messiah is the end (Gk.telos) = fulfilment, completion, goal) of the Law because He becomes righteousness for everyone with faith

Part Two: **Romans 10.5-13** - Comparing “by works” and “by faith”

Rom 10.5-7 For Moses writes that the man who practices the righteousness which is based on law shall live by that righteousness. But the righteousness based on faith speaks as follows: “DO NOT SAY IN YOUR HEART, ‘WHO WILL ASCEND INTO HEAVEN?’ (that is, to bring Christ down), or ‘WHO WILL DESCEND INTO THE ABYSS?’ (that is, to bring Christ up from the dead).”

The Word speaks of this righteousness by faith through Moses

1. “by works” - Paul quotes Moses’ words from **Lev.18.4-5** that anyone living by the Law of righteousness is bound to live by its laws
2. “by faith” - Then Paul quotes from **Deut.30.11-14** where Moses declares that keeping the Laws are not too difficult because they are as near as your heart and mouth
 - a. **Deut 30.11** Moses says his commandment is not too difficult or far away
 - b. **Deut 30.12-13** Do not say, “Who can climb up to heaven to gain Christ or go down into the depths as if the Messiah is so very far off?”
 - c. **Deut 30.14** The word is near as your mouth and heart

Part Two: **Romans 10.5-13** - Comparing “by works” and “by faith”

Rom 10.8-10 But what does it say? “The word is near you, in your mouth and in your heart” (that is, the word of faith that we proclaim); because, if you confess with your mouth that Jesus is Lord and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved.

For with the heart one believes and is justified, and with the mouth one confesses and is saved.

3. Paul now uses **Deut. 30.14** as the fulfilment of what one must do to be saved
4. Finding the Messiah is as near as your heart and mouth: **Rom 10.9**
Confessing “**Jesus is Lord**” with your **mouth** from your **heart** that believes God raised him from the dead as Lord is the way to salvation
5. **Rom 10.10** Two acts of faith are each important:
 - a. the **heart** is the center of all important life changing decisions and it must **believe** that Jesus is your living Messiah
 - b. the **mouth** is just as important as it releases faith as one gives testimony to the **heart** belief within

Part Two: **Romans 10.5-13** - Comparing “by works” and “by faith”

Rom 10.11-13 For the Scripture says, “WHOEVER BELIEVES IN HIM WILL NOT BE PUT TO SHAME.”

For there is no distinction between Jew and Greek; for the same Lord is Lord of all, abounding in riches for all who call on Him; for “WHOEVER WILL CALL ON THE NAME OF THE LORD WILL BE SAVED.”

1. v.11 Paul makes universal application to this salvation by quoting again from **Isa.28.16** that “**whoever believes in Him will not be put to shame by the judgment of the Law**”
2. v.12-13 The gospel of righteousness by faith is open to all mankind - whether Jew or Greek - “**He is Lord of all**”
 - a. He bestows the abounding riches of His grace to all that call upon Him
 - b. **Rom.10.13** again Paul cites scripture in **Joel 2.32** which Peter quoted on the day of Pentecost as 3000 called upon the name of the Lord and were saved
3. Here Paul wisely balances God’s sovereign election with man’s personal responsibility to call out in faith to their Savior

Part Three: **Romans 10.14-17** Gospel Method

Rom 10.14-15 How then will they call on Him in whom they have not believed? How will they believe in Him whom they have not heard? And how will they hear without a preacher? How will they preach unless they are sent? Just as it is written, “HOW BEAUTIFUL ARE THE FEET OF THOSE WHO BRING GOOD NEWS OF GOOD THINGS!”

Rom 10.17 So faith comes from hearing, and hearing through the word of Christ.

1. Paul now turns to the crucial elements of the gospel message (to explain in part why many Jews have not yet believed)
 - a. Faith must precede hearing the call of the gospel
 - b. Hearing must precede faith
 - c. Preaching enables hearing
 - d. Divine commission enables preaching (How beautiful the preachers with the gospel)
2. Faith is quickened by Hearing
 - a. but it is not just the hearing of a logos word
 - b. faith is quickened when the living rema speaks of the Messiah

Part Four: **Romans 10.18-21** The Gospel has gone out but they have not listened

Rom 10.16 But they have not all obeyed the gospel. For Isaiah says, “Lord, who has believed what he has heard from us?”

Rom 10.18 But I ask, have they not heard? Indeed they have, for “Their voice has gone out to all the earth, and their words to the ends of the world.”

Rom 10.19 But I ask, did Israel not understand? First Moses says, “I will make you jealous of those who are not a nation; with a foolish nation I will make you angry.”

Paul declares that the Word of God has gone out but not been heard

1. v.16 Testimony of the Suffering Servant **Isa. 53** “who has believed the report?”
2. v.18 Testimony of Creation - **Psa 19.4** David declares that “Their voice has gone out to all the earth”
3. v.19 - Testimony of Moses **Deut 32.21** Moses prophesied in 1400BC that God would respond to their rejection by showing mercy to foolish gentiles

Part Four: **Romans 10.18-21** The Gospel has gone out but they have not listened

Rom 10.20 Then Isaiah is so bold as to say,
“I have been found by those who did not seek me;
I have shown myself to those who did not ask for me.”

Rom. 10.21 But of Israel he says, “All day long I have held out my hands to a disobedient and contrary people.”

Paul declares that the Word of God has gone out but not been heard

4. v.20-21 Testimony of prophecy has gone out

a. - **Isa 65.1** Isaiah prophesied in 700BC that God would be found by a people who neither sought nor asked but heard

b. - **Isa 65.2** God Himself declares that for years He has extended His merciful hand to a disobedient and stubborn Israel

Summary of Romans 10: Israel's Rejection was foretold in Scripture

Paul clearly presents the spiritual reasons for Israel's blindness and hardness to the gospel

1 - blind zeal for the LAW stumbles over their Savior without seeing Him because righteousness is seen as the goal of pride and self attainment

2 - only when we see the Righteous One do we despise ourselves and forsake any attempt at self salvation

3 - salvation was man centered and not God centered

4 - Moses said, "Do not keep trying to get to God by climbing merit" but listen to the voice in your heart instead

5 - the notion of a messiah who suffered and died for their sins was despised because it was man humbling

6 - their religion had become filled with outward duties lacking any spiritual reality born of faith, grace and the Holy Spirit

Paul's Epistle to the Romans

- next time: Rom II
- God is not through with Israel