

Israel and God's Righteousness ...

Romans 10:1-13 - 08/09/2015

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Paul helps us understand God's view of Israel in relationship to the Gospel of Christ, the New Covenant of God in their Messiah, Jesus Christ → LORD, King, God, Master, Messiah, and Savior. We see that Romans 9, 10, and 11 are focused **entirely** upon Israel and her relationship with the Gospel of Christ (the New Covenant of God in Christ).

Paul's introduction of **Romans Chapter 9** (vv. 1 – 5)

I tell the truth in Christ, I am not lying, my conscience also bearing me witness in the Holy Spirit, ²that I have great sorrow and continual grief in my heart. ³For I could wish that I myself were accursed from Christ for my brethren, my countrymen according to the flesh, ⁴who are **ISRAELITES, to whom pertain the adoption, the glory, the covenants, the giving of the law, the service of God, and the promises; ⁵of whom are the fathers and from whom, according to the flesh, Christ (i.e.: Messiah) came, who is over all, the eternally blessed God. Amen.**

In the last few verses of Romans 9 – Paul explains the reason that the majority of Israelis are “lost” and not “saved” in Christ ...

Romans 9:30-33 (a partial hardness of heart, just like the hardness of heart that Pharaoh had) ...

³⁰What shall we say then? That Gentiles, who did not pursue righteousness, have attained to righteousness, even the righteousness of faith; ³¹but Israel, pursuing the law of righteousness, has not attained to the law of righteousness. ³²Why? **BECAUSE THEY DID NOT SEEK IT BY FAITH, but as it were, BY THE WORKS OF THE LAW. For they stumbled at that stumbling stone. ³³As it is written:
“Behold, I lay in Zion a stumbling stone and rock of offense,
AND whoever believes on Him will not be put to shame
[or ‘will not be disappointed’].”**

So, Paul lets us understand WHY a majority of Israel, God's Chosen People, are NOT saved in Christ. They chose, as a majority, to continue to pursue seeking God based upon their own religious, ritualistic, traditional “works” of “righteousness” to seek to earn their right to be made righteous before the Holy God of Israel and to “maintain” their “right standing” before God. You see, they think that because they are the genetic descendants of Israel (Jacob) and they do “good works” they are “OK” with God and God is “OK” with them, etc.

Contrast that with “lost” Gentiles (people who come from non-Israeli nations) are being saved by God, being “born again” in Christ (in Israel's Messiah) left and right, exponentially ... folks that are now Loving the God of Israel, the God of the Bible. Somehow, those Gentiles are being made “Right” with God, but it is NOT on the basis of “doing the good works of following the Mosaic Laws”. They are being made right with God on the Basis of Trusting in God and the Finished Redemptive Work of Christ (Christ's Crucifixion, Death, Burial, and Resurrection ... the Gospel of Christ). These lost Gentiles are hearing the Gospel of Christ presented to them, they are Repenting of their sins and Believing in Christ for their salvation (see **1 Thessalonians 1:9-10** as an example).

We see this same kind of introduction with Romans Chapter 10 → Paul's Grief over Israel ... his desperation over their “lostness” in regards to the Gospel of Christ ...

Paul is consistent with his heart's desire to see all of Israel saved ... even though Paul is called to spread the Gospel amongst the Gentile nations of the world...

Romans 10:1-13

Brethren, my **HEART'S DESIRE AND PRAYER** to God for **ISRAEL** is that **THEY MAY BE SAVED**. ²For I bear them witness that they have a zeal for God, but **NOT** according to knowledge. ³For they, **BEING IGNORANT OF GOD'S RIGHTEOUSNESS**, and **SEEKING TO ESTABLISH THEIR OWN RIGHTEOUSNESS**, have **NOT SUBMITTED TO THE RIGHTEOUSNESS OF GOD**. ⁴For **CHRIST** is the **END OF THE LAW FOR RIGHTEOUSNESS** to everyone who believes.

⁵For Moses writes about the righteousness which is of the law, "The man who does those things shall live by them." ⁶But the righteousness of faith speaks in this way, "Do not say in your heart, 'Who will ascend into heaven?'" (that is, to bring Christ down from above) ⁷or, "'Who will descend into the abyss?'" (that is, to bring Christ up from the dead). ⁸But, what does it say? "The word is near you, in your mouth and in your heart" (that is, **THE WORD OF FAITH** which we **PREACH**): ⁹that if you confess with your mouth the **LORD JESUS** and **BELIEVE IN YOUR HEART** that God has **RAISED HIM FROM THE DEAD**, you will be **SAVED**. ¹⁰For with the heart one believes unto **RIGHTEOUSNESS**, and with the mouth **CONFESSION** is made unto **SALVATION**. ¹¹For the Scripture says, "Whoever **BELIEVES ON Him** will not be put to shame [or 'will not be disappointed']". ¹²For there is **NO DISTINCTION** between Jew and Greek, for the same Lord over all is rich to all who call upon Him. ¹³For "**WHOEVER** calls on the **NAME** of the **LORD** shall be **SAVED**."

1. Again, just to reiterate: the Driving Force of the Gospel of Christ and its spread is **COMPASSION and Love for Lost People**. It is not just "duty" or "obligation" but God's Love must be the Driving Force our Love for Lost People, People Groups, nations: Brethren, my **HEART'S DESIRE AND PRAYER** to God for **ISRAEL** is that **THEY MAY BE SAVED**. (Romans 10:1 – compare with Romans 9:1-5 & Matt. 9:35-38) Paul shows an example of someone who is Praying for the Lost to be saved. He is **specific**, not just saying "Please God, save the lost ..." but being specific, **targeted**.
2. **Rejection** of submitting to Receiving God's Righteousness, **God's Way** - that is why Israel is in her state of "**lostness**" and "**partial hardening of her heart**". This is **not** because God wants her that way → **she just is** → **BECAUSE** of her response ...: ²For I bear them witness that they have a zeal for God, but **NOT** according to knowledge. ³For they, **BEING IGNORANT OF GOD'S RIGHTEOUSNESS**, and **SEEKING TO ESTABLISH THEIR OWN RIGHTEOUSNESS**, have **NOT SUBMITTED TO THE RIGHTEOUSNESS OF GOD**. ⁴For **CHRIST** is the **END OF THE LAW FOR RIGHTEOUSNESS** to everyone who believes. (Rom. 10:2-4) Paul labored in Romans chapters 1 thru 8 establishing **God's way of receiving His Righteousness** thru the Gospel of Christ by Faith → the **NEW COVENANT**. (Hebrews 7:12 (new law) → Jeremiah 31:31-33 - New Covenant is **NOT LIKE**)

Jesus said, “I AM the WAY, the TRUTH, and the LIFE ... and NO ONE comes to the Father, EXCEPT through ME...” John 14:6 ... that should settle it, once and for all.

3. **Receiving God’s Salvation, Receiving God’s Righteousness in the New Covenant ... no distinction if you are Israeli or Gentile ... same way ... through Christ, alone**

REPENTANCE – turning away from sin ... also turning away from False beliefs, even the kind that Israel is holding → “self righteousness” of performance based traditions, rituals, and religious works of the “law”, etc... They need to turn away from the “establishment of their own righteousness” and turn to God, in Faith, in Trust ... Trusting in Christ and His Finished Work of Redemption (Crucifixion, Death, Burial, and Resurrection...)

1 Corinthians 15:1-4

Now I make known to you, brethren, **THE GOSPEL** which I preached to you, which also you **RECEIVED**, in which also you stand, ² by which also you are **SAVED**, if you hold fast the word which I preached to you, unless you believed in vain. ³ For I delivered to you as of first importance what I also received, that **Christ DIED FOR OUR SINS** according to the Scriptures, ⁴ and that He was **BURIED**, and that He was **RAISED** on the third day according to the Scriptures

Ephesians 1:13-14: ¹³ In Him (in Christ) you also **TRUSTED, AFTER** you **HEARD THE WORD OF TRUTH, THE GOSPEL OF YOUR SALVATION**; in whom also, having **BELIEVED**, you were sealed with the Holy Spirit of promise, ¹⁴ who is the guarantee of our inheritance until the redemption of the purchased possession, to the praise of His glory.

Romans 10:9 → ... if you confess with your mouth the **LORD JESUS** and **BELIEVE IN YOUR HEART** that God has **RAISED HIM FROM THE DEAD**, you will be **SAVED**.

“confess with your mouth ‘the LORD JESUS’ ...” → this means that you are confessing the Jesus Christ is your LORD. Back then, it meant that He was your MASTER, RULER, and KING. It was used exclusively in the Roman Empire during the time this was written for Caesar as the Roman Emperor ... the LORD and KING ... even as a “god” (of sorts...) It meant the highest authority over an individual human being, people group, or nation. So, a person, if they said that, back then, it could mean prison, persecution, loss of employment, exile, torture, or even death. This “LORD” title was not taken lightly. If a person confessed that → that Jesus Christ is a person’s “LORD” they meant it. It was because it was true. It wasn’t just some religious magic word recited by rote ritual. It was a full surrender to the KINGLY RULE of Jesus Christ as LORD, KING, GOD, and Savior ... it meant nothing other than that. So, today we might state it like this: → if you truly have fully surrendered to Jesus Christ as your LORD, KING, God, Master, and Savior ... and your Truly Believe that Christ died on the Cross for your sins, God punished Jesus in your place, God paid all of your sins (past, present, and future), Jesus Christ was buried, and that God raised Him from the Dead... if you truly believe this from your heart ... then you are Saved ... Born Again.

That is probably the best way to interpret this ... in light of the other “Salvational” passages written by the apostle Paul.

What is Paul focusing on here...? That anyone, no matter their “national” origin, can NOW be Saved ... “Whoever shall call upon the Name of the LORD shall be saved ...” Romans 10:13 . . .

Paul is focusing on the reality, that in the New Covenant ... all human beings have full access to Salvation and God’s Righteousness ... and it is not some Exclusive Club that only the Descendants of Jacob can enjoy.

(in reality it never was ... but somehow they got trapped into thinking it was)

Remember God’s main purpose of Choosing Israel was for the Salvation of all human beings of all nations.

Isaiah 49:6 - God says, “It is too small a thing that You should be My Servant To raise up the tribes of Jacob and to restore the preserved ones of Israel; I will also MAKE You a LIGHT of the nations (i.e “Gentiles”) So that My Salvation may REACH to the ends of the earth.”

God’s purpose was very clear, regarding Israel, and we know that the first Believers/Follower/Disciple in Christ (in Messiah) were all Israelis. **God is Faithful.** God’s Purpose for the whole nation of Israel is still the same and it hasn’t changed.

Thus, Paul’s desire and passionate Prayer for “lost” Israel **should still be our prayer as well ... that Israel, all of Israel would be saved.**

But, in the same way, we need to have that same type of passionate prayer for all the lost of all the unreached people groups all over the world ... our lost loved ones, family members, relatives, friends, workmates, Neighbors, etc... we should be prayer warriors for the lost around us.

And in those prayers, **pray that God would open up Effectual doors for the Gospel through your life to those around you... that God would give you massive, miraculous favor with the lost around you, for the Gospel’s Sake...** that we all, would be used mightily of God, Effectively and Fruitfully for the Gospel’s Sake → **AMEN** 😊