

Lesson 11: Romans 10:1 - 21: Faith and Righteousness

I. Introduction

Romans 9, concluded with Paul declaring that his people Israel had tried to become righteous before God incorrectly. Israel has faced a significant challenge by rejecting Christ who is described as the "stumbling stone". In Romans 10:1-3, Paul expresses deep concerns and prays earnestly for the salvation of his fellow Israelites. He recognizes that many are trying to earn their righteousness through works; relying on their attempts to keep the law, rather than accepting faith in Christ. Paul's heartfelt prayers show his desire for Israel to understand and embrace the grace offered through faith.

For with the heart, one believes unto righteousness, and with the mouth, confession is made unto salvation: We do not gain God's righteousness by works, instead, we gain it by confessing and believing in the person and work of Jesus Christ (10:9-13). These two together (belief and confession) result in righteousness and salvation; all who call on the name of the Lord will be saved.

In verses 14-15, Paul highlights the necessity of preaching the gospel for the salvation of souls: "How then shall they call on Him in whom they have not believed? And how shall they believe in Him of whom they have not heard? And how shall they hear without a preacher?" God's "normal" way of bringing people to Jesus Christ is through preaching the gospel. Through the power of the Holy Spirit, the gospel message is proclaimed so that those who hear it can believe and be saved. Preaching is essential for the salvation of souls.

This section emphasizes that God's righteousness is gained by faith in Jesus Christ.

II. Study the Scriptures: Read the Passage Romans 10:1-21

Note your thoughts as you read:

III. Think Through the Following Questions:

1. In what ways can we see that the Jews had a zeal for God? What did this zeal lead them to do? How about Paul's life own examples? Why are zeal and knowledge important?
2. What does Paul mean when he says the "word of God is near you" (Romans 10:8)? How does this challenge the idea that salvation is only for a select few?
3. How does confessing with your mouth and believing in your heart lead to salvation according to Romans 10:9 . Explain the significance. How does this truth affect the way we share the gospel with others?
4. "For everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved."(v.13) What is calling upon the name of the Lord and how does this guarantee our salvation?
- 5.. In verses 14-15, Paul emphasizes preaching the Gospel for salvation. Why is the preaching of the Gospel crucial for the salvation of souls?
7. "All day long I have held out my hands to a disobedient and contrary people."(v.21) How does this verse illustrate the contrast between God's desire for Israel and their resistance to accepting His offer of salvation?

IV. Lessons Learned: Are there any new things you learned from this passage today?

V. Application: How do you think this will impact your thinking and/or actions going forward?