

Sunday Night Direction

Romans Study

Tonight we are going to be continuing our study through the book of Romans.

Let's look **chapter 10**

- Paul continues his addressing of the theme of righteousness and moves to human responsibility.
- Remember, chapter 9 dealt with the sovereignty of God and that he is entitled (because he is God and creator) to show mercy to whomever he chooses and that he is able to use (even ungodly men/ nations) for his will.

- **Chapter 10:1** – “**My heart's desire**”

- This reminds us of **Chapter 9:1** – Where we see the very heart of Paul for his people, the nation of Israel.
 - Paul is reminding them again, before he says things that are hard to hear, that he is driven with a desire for their salvation.
 - Nothing Paul is saying is based in anger or animosity, it is purely his love for them.
- The Jews did not believe they needed to be “saved” spiritually, because after all they were God's special chosen people!
- The Jews would think the gentiles needed to be redeemed or “saved” but not them! Jesus in the Gospels points out in parable after parable how wrong this attitude is for the Jews. (**Luke 15 and 18**; the older brother and the Pharisee)
- I like what Wiersbe said, “Israel would have been happy for political salvation from Rome, but she did not feel she needed spiritual salvation from her own sin.”

- **The rejection of Christ by Israel** – **Vs. 2-5**

- Paul speaks very truthfully here, but remember, this is not without context of sharing his heart for them. He is speaking the truth in love!

- A couple comments that stand out to me:
 - A zeal for God – not based in knowledge
 - Establishing their own righteousness – in works
 - Not submitted to the righteousness of God – Pride
- They looked the part but there was no personal relationship with God. It was all external, there was no heart change!
- The statement that flips the whole chapter is found in **verse 4**:
 - **“Christ is the end of the law for righteousness”** – The method of gaining righteousness in the law stopped when Christ fulfilled the law!
 - The Moody Commentary says it well, *“Just as a finish line is both the goal and the end of a race, Jesus is the goal of the law inasmuch as it anticipated and pointed toward Him, and he is the end of the law since He brings its era of governing life to a close.”* (pg. 1762)
 - The other powerful part of this verse is **“everyone that believes.”**
- **The offer of faith – Vs. 6-13**
 - In this part of the passage we see Paul quotes **Deuteronomy 30:12-14**.
 - Paul’s point is that if the Jews believe they have kept the law perfectly, they have only done it outwardly, not inwardly, not of the heart.
 - Which is the point of the Deut. reference, which is the inner spiritual condition, and not mere outward acts of obedience.
 - Paul expresses in **verses 9-13** the simple and welcoming invitation to salvation! Yes, we must repent and actually turn from our sin, but we turn from sin and to Christ! His grace is for whosoever!
 - It’s his heaven! It’s his salvation! It’s his grace! And, as Ravi Zacharias says. *“All truth by definition is restrictive.”*
- **The opportunity to hear – Vs. 14-17**

- Paul carries out a very logical thought in these couple verses. The amazing gift of God through Christ is forgiveness of sins and redemption from hell for eternity by placing our faith and trust in Christ.

- The problem is: people don't know that is available!

- Remember Paul is addressing the Jews and wanting them to see their need for salvation as well as how to be saved. What he says needs to happen between **verses 14-17** (which is the same today) is exactly what he is doing and has done for the Jews.

- Let's break down the steps that Paul addresses:

- **Call** – A sinner crying out to God for forgiveness/ repentance.

- **Believe** – What? The gospel! An act of the heart through faith (**Romans 10: 9-10; 1 Corinthians 15:1-9**)

- **Heard** – The gospel must be preached to them with words.

- **Preacher** – The one preaching the gospel – a “proclaimer”

- **Sent** – The proclaimer must be sent out to those in need to hear.

- NOTE: This is why we say that when a missionary goes to a field or area, that they are “sent out.” We, all believers, are sent out by Christ (**Matthew 28:19-20; Acts 1:8**)

- Again, note that Paul understood this process when he was “sent” out from the church at Antioch to preach the Gospel to all that would hear and believe. That belief results in a call.

- **The results of their rejection** – **Vs. 18-21**

- While many will and have called upon the Lord, there were those that did not decide to call out.

- Paul uses some Old Testament references with prominent figures to drive home the point that Israel heard the truth and should have understood. They had been given enough knowledge to believe.

- **Psalm 19** – A psalm that emphasizes the revelation of God in the world. In **Ps. 19:1-6** we see God in creation, in **vs. 7-11** we see the words of God.

- **Israel is guilty before God** and they cannot say they had not heard because they had all that was needed to place their faith in Christ.

- **Another result of their rejection is:**

- The message goes to the gentiles, which was prophesied by Moses (**Deut. 32:21**) and by Isaiah (**Isa. 65:1**).

- It is an act of grace to the Jews and the gentiles of God because as Paul said in **chapter 9:22-26**.

- This is an amazing picture of the book of Acts as well, when the church began to grow, it followed a “to the Jews first picture.”

- **The last result we see in Chapter 10 is:**

- God still desires to have a relationship with Israel! Which shouldn't surprise us because God desires that all would come to repentance! (**2 Peter 3:9**)

- **Vs. 21** is a quote from **Isaiah 65:2** and expresses that God is always willing to save, always willing to forgive and extend his grace to those who call out to him! While we have breathe in our lungs, we can repent and be saved.

Conclusion:

There is so much amazing truth in this chapter that demonstrates that God desires to reach all people with his Gospel. That the Jews are not forgotten by God, but that they have opportunity to hear and repent.

Also, we find the challenge in this chapter that the only way people will call upon the name of the Lord and receive his grace is if someone is sent to them, to preach to them the Word of God.

We see a God in this chapter that desires to make himself known and he will continuity stretch out his hand of salvation to us!