

ISRAEL'S IGNORANCE OF GOD'S RIGHTEOUSNESS  
ROMANS 10:1-3

INTRODUCTION:

Last week we finished chapter 9, the first of three chapters that Paul devotes to Israel and her place as a nation in God's plan of redemption. In this chapter we learned that Israel's unbelief and rejection of the Messiah, Jesus Christ did not nullify the promises God made to Israel, but delayed them to the future, Israel's unbelief did not change God's person, He remained righteous and just as He has always been. Israel's unbelief and rejection were revealed by God centuries before the Messiah came. Finally, Israel's unbelief and rejection did not change God's requirement of faith for salvation.

This morning we will begin chapter 10 and Paul begins it in much the same as he began chapter 9 voicing his concern for his people. Then he testifies about Israel and gives the reason that they have been set aside by God at this time.

I. PAUL'S PRAYER (Romans 10:1)

- a. Much like the beginning of chapter 9 where Paul expressed his great sorrow and unceasing grief in his heart because of the \_\_\_\_\_ of his Jewish kinsmen.
- b. This word translated "\_\_\_\_\_" is a word that means "to plead, to implore, to be persistent in petitioning someone for something.
- c. Paul understood the sovereign election of God, yet he prayed with certainty that God could in His perfect sovereignty and grace \_\_\_\_\_ Israel.

II. PAUL'S TESTIMONY (Romans 10:2)

- a. After expressing his heart's desire and prayer for the people of Israel, Paul goes on to \_\_\_\_\_ about his people.
- b. Listen as I read Paul's testimony of his own \_\_\_\_\_ before Christ. (Galatians 1:13-14; Philippians 3:4-6)

- c. If anyone knew what it was to be \_\_\_\_\_ for God, but not in accordance with knowledge it was Paul. (Colossians 2:1-3; Ephesians 1:15-19)

I. THE REASON FOR ISRAEL'S IGNORANCE (Romans 10:3)

- a. Paul goes on in verse 3 to tell us the reason for Israel's \_\_\_\_\_ and it is due to the fact of their not knowing about God's righteousness. (Romans 9:31-32)
- b. Paul's point is that Israel's rejection by God, their being set aside for a time, was not due to God's sovereign election as if He had held back His \_\_\_\_\_ from His chosen people.
- c. Paul goes on in verse 3 to give the full reason for Israel's ignorance and it has to do with the fact that they were willingly and inexcusably ignorant about God's \_\_\_\_\_.
- d. How could Paul make the assertion that the Israelites were \_\_\_\_\_ about God's righteousness? (Psalm 119:137-138, 142, 144; Jeremiah 9:23-24)
- e. Even though the Old Testament clearly taught God's standard of righteousness that could be obtained by faith, the Jews did not \_\_\_\_\_ to it.
- f. What exactly is this \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_ of God that the Israelites abandoned for their own standard of righteousness?
- g. No one can fully understand the holiness and righteousness of God, but when we even comprehend just a small part of it, it magnifies our own \_\_\_\_\_.

CONCLUSION:

It was not only the Jews of Paul's day that developed their own standard of righteousness so that they would feel that they can be righteous and accepted by God. No amount of works righteousness will make us acceptable to God. We can do all that we want, and it will fall short of God's standard of righteousness. Isaiah wrote in Isaiah 64:6, "*For all of us have become like one who is unclean, And all our righteous deeds are like a filthy garment; And all of us wither*

*like a leaf, And our iniquities, like the wind, take us away.*” (Isaiah 64:6, NASB95) What are you depending on this morning to make you acceptable to God? Not only is God perfectly holy and righteous, but He demands that of anyone who is to be accepted by Him. The standard of righteousness by which we are judged is not our standard but His holy standard. This is not something we can achieve, because of our sin we will always fall short. There is only One who ever fulfilled the Law perfectly and achieved God’s acceptance because of His perfect righteousness and that is the Lord Jesus Christ. Jesus Christ in perfect righteousness went to the cross on our behalf, He took upon Himself the sin of mankind and died paying the penalty for sin, He was buried and on the third day He rose from the dead proving that His payment for sin was accepted by God and paid the entire penalty for sin. The righteousness that we need can be obtained through faith in Jesus Christ and His death and burial for us. When we trust in Christ just as our sin became His, His righteousness becomes ours and we stand accepted before God in the righteousness of Jesus Christ. Paul spoke of this exchange in 2 Corinthians 5:21 when he wrote, “*He made Him who knew no sin to be sin on our behalf, so that we might become the righteousness of God in Him.*” (2 Corinthians 5:21, NASB95)