

ISRAEL'S IGNORANCE OF RIGHTEOUSNESS BY FAITH IN CHRIST – ROMANS 10:4-10

INTRODUCTION:

Last Sunday we just began looking at chapter 10, just the first three verses in which Paul declares his heart's desire and prayer for the Jews, his kinsmen according to the flesh, his desire and prayer is for their salvation, They are zealous for God but not in accordance with righteousness, they do not understand the perfect righteousness of God nor their own unrighteousness, thinking that they are acceptable to God in their works righteousness and because they are His chosen people, they do not see or understand their need to submit to the righteousness of God by faith.

This morning we will learn that they also were ignorant of the provision of righteousness available to them through faith in Jesus Christ. First, we will learn that Christ is the end of the law for righteousness and that righteousness is available through faith in Jesus Christ, their Messiah, Savior, and Lord who died for them and rose from the dead on the third day.

I. JESUS CHRIST THE END OF THE LAW FOR RIGHTEOUSNESS (Romans 10:4a)

- a. As we learned last week the Jews believed that their works righteousness made them _____ to God. (Matthew 5:20: Isaiah 64:6)
- b. As long as a person is self-righteous and arrogant, he will not see a _____ for a Savior, he will not see a need for righteousness by faith.
- c. Paul in declaring that Christ is the _____ of the law for righteousness was declaring that the righteousness needed to be acceptable to God and to escape divine judgment was only available in Christ. (2 Corinthians 5:21)
- d. The law and any _____ to keep it will never result in righteousness, Paul had already declared this in this letter to the Romans. (Romans 3:19–22)

II. CHRIST THE MEANS OF RIGHTEOUSNESS THROUGH FAITH (Romans 4b-10)

- a. Paul ends verse four by declaring how we _____ the righteousness that is available through Jesus Christ.
- b. As we continue moving into verses 5-10, Paul shows to us clearly the place of _____ in God's plan of redemption. (James 2:10; Galatians 3:11)
- c. In Paul's day the standard of God's perfect righteousness had been so _____ over the years that it was replaced with rabbinical tradition.
- d. Paul now turns to righteousness by _____. (Deuteronomy 30:9–10)
- e. Paul's point in verses 6-7 is that, even if such things were possible no one could come to _____ by ascending to heaven in search of Christ, to bring Him down, or by descending into the abyss to bring Him up from the dead.
- f. Paul goes on in verses 9-10 to give us the way of _____ and how we can be declared _____ with the righteousness God requires.

CONCLUSION:

I have a lot more to say about these two verses but not this morning. So, return next Sunday to learn more about these last two verses.

In this passage Paul contrasts works righteousness with righteousness by faith and makes truly clear that works righteousness will fail, because of sin we cannot meet God's perfect standard of righteousness. God in His grace made a plan to redeem sinful mankind and bestow upon him His own perfect righteousness so that man would be acceptable to God and could come into relationship with Him. God's plan of redemption does not require man to do anything but put his faith in Jesus Christ. God did everything by sending His Son to this earth through the incarnation in which God the Son became a man and took on flesh and blood and became like us in every way except for sin, He was sinless, and He went to the cross as

our substitute and suffered God's wrath against sin, and His death paid the penalty for sin, He was buried and on the third day He rose from the dead proving that God's wrath against sin was satisfied, that sin had been paid for in full, and death had been conquered. When we come to faith in Jesus Christ sin is forgiven and we are declared righteous in the perfect righteousness of Christ, we are saved from the judgment of sin and guaranteed eternal life by Christ's own resurrection.

Paul's point in this passage was to show how his kinsmen, the Jews had missed all this being ignorant first of God's righteousness and their own unrighteousness, but also being ignorant because of their pride in being a descendant of Abraham, and because of their self-righteousness, they did not recognize Jesus Christ as their Messiah, Savior and Lord and thus did not see the need of righteousness by faith believing they were already acceptable to God. The idea that even the most zealous and devout Pharisee (like Paul had been) could not keep God's law and was condemned and worthy of God's wrath was unimaginable to Jews. Many Jews believed they were acceptable to God just because they were Jewish, descendants of Abraham, members of God's chosen people. For the Jew, they considered the most degenerate, sinful Jew was more pleasing to God than the most upright Gentile. Paul wrote concerning his fellow Jews, "*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.*" (Romans 10:2–3, NASB95) They did not understand that righteousness, perfect righteousness is not about doing, but about believing, believing in Jesus Christ, whom they had rejected. Paul's desire in writing this was to open their eyes to the truth because his heart's desire and prayer for the Jews was their salvation.