

"God's Relationship with Israel"

Romans 9-11

Part 14

Introduction: Last week in our study of Romans we started into Romans 10 and in the verses, we were looking at Paul is explaining why the majority of national Israel are not saved. At the end of chapter 9 Paul began to explain what had happened with Israel.

Romans 9:30-33

³⁰ What shall we say then? That the Gentiles, which followed not after righteousness, have attained to righteousness, even the righteousness which is of faith.

³¹ But Israel, which followed after the law of righteousness, hath not attained to the law of righteousness.

³² Wherefore? Because they sought it not by faith, but as it were by the works of the law. For they stumbled at that stumblingstone;

³³ As it is written, Behold, I lay in Sion a stumblingstone and rock of offence: and whosoever believeth on him shall not be ashamed.

Israel had stumbled over Jesus Christ. Jesus became a rock of offence to Israel. The reason was because He did not meet their expectations. On Sunday morning we were given a glimpse of this with the Emmaus disciples. Notice again as they reveal their expectations:

Luke 24:17-21

¹⁷ And he said unto them, What manner of communications are these that ye have one to another, as ye walk, and are sad?

¹⁸ And the one of them, whose name was Cleopas, answering said unto him, Art thou only a stranger in Jerusalem, and hast not known the things which are come to pass there in these days?

¹⁹ And he said unto them, What things? And they said unto him, Concerning Jesus of Nazareth, which was a prophet mighty in deed and word before God and all the people:

²⁰ And how the chief priests and our rulers delivered him to be condemned to death, and have crucified him.

²¹ But we trusted that it had been he which should have redeemed Israel: and beside all this, to day is the third day since these things were done.

The Jews were looking for the Kingdom and the King who was written about by the Old Testament prophets. They were looking for a King to overthrow the Roman Empire. But instead of setting up the Kingdom, Jesus was nailed to the cross and there He died. The cross was extremely offensive to the Jews. The cross was for criminals not for kings. The Jews who stood around the cross saw the suffering of Jesus as something which He had brought on Himself. You see they thought He was suffering for His own sin. Remember what Isaiah wrote?

Isaiah 53:1-4

Who hath believed our report? and to whom is the arm of the LORD revealed?

² *For he shall grow up before him as a tender plant, and as a root out of a dry ground: he hath no form nor comeliness; and when we shall see him, there is no beauty that we should desire him.*

³ *He is despised and rejected of men;* a man of sorrows, and acquainted with grief: and we hid as it were our faces from him; *he was despised, and we esteemed him not.*

⁴ *Surely he hath borne our griefs, and carried our sorrows: yet we did esteem him stricken, smitten of God, and afflicted.*

Galatians 3:13b

Cursed is every one that hangeth on a tree:

This now brings us to Romans 10 again.

God's Relationship with Israel in the Present

Part 2

Romans 10

Notice Romans 10:1-2

Paul's heart was extremely heavy for Israel. He wanted so much to see them saved. He knew from his own experience that they had a zeal for God. This meant they wanted to please God and they wanted to live for Him. But their zeal was without knowledge. They were like a rocket full of fuel with no guidance system. This rocket will never reach its intended target, and neither would Israel without the proper knowledge. The next verse gives us more detail.

Notice Romans 10:3

There are three main thoughts in this verse:

1. They are ignorant of God's righteousness.

I don't want to go too far into this because we covered this thought last week but we do need to be reminded to keep the context in sight here. The Jews are ignorant of the means of attaining the righteousness which God requires. God' righteousness is only by faith in His Son.

Romans 3:21-24

²¹ But now the righteousness of God without the law is manifested, being witnessed by the law and the prophets;

²² Even the righteousness of God which is by faith of Jesus Christ unto all and upon all them that believe: for there is no difference:

²³ For all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God;

²⁴ Being justified freely by his grace through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus:

2. They try to establish their own righteousness.

The Jews attempt to please God by the works of the flesh in the keeping of the Law. The Jews saw the Law in the wrong way. They saw it as a means of salvation and that was never the intent of the Law.

Romans 3:19-20

¹⁹ Now we know that what things soever the law saith, it saith to them who are under the law: that every mouth may be stopped, and all the world may become guilty before God.

²⁰ Therefore by the deeds of the law there shall no flesh be justified in his sight: for by the law is the knowledge of sin.

3. The refuse to submit to God's righteousness.

The Jews labor in their own strength in an attempt to bring themselves to God all the while rejecting the grace of God in Jesus Crist. But it is all for nothing. Let me show you an illustration from Zellers:

"Those seeking to establish their own righteousness by keeping the law are like people trying to swim from New York to London by their own efforts. It's impossible! Some will do better than others. Some might even swim many miles. But they will all drown and perish in the ocean. Not one will make it. "Those submitting" are like those who simply get into the

ship and let the ship take them from New York to London. The ship does all the work. They don't get themselves there, the ship gets them there. Christ is the One who gets us to God. Our own works, our own effort, no matter how sincere and diligent we are, will never get us to God."

This is the Truth that separates Christianity from all other religions. It is ONLY Christianity that recognizes man's total inability to please God. It is ONLY Christianity that sees the righteousness man needs as something which cannot be earned but can only be received as a free gift from God by grace.

There is not one person who has ever and who will ever earn their salvation by works or by keeping the Law. It is not possible!

Romans 3:10-12

¹⁰ *As it is written, There is none righteous, no, not one:*

¹¹ *There is none that understandeth, there is none that seeketh after God.*

¹² *They are all gone out of the way, they are together become unprofitable; there is none that doeth good, no, not one.*

Isaiah 64:6

⁶ *But we are all as an unclean thing, and all our righteousnesses are as filthy rags; and we all do fade as a leaf; and our iniquities, like the wind, have taken us away.*

Notice Romans 10:3 again.

The word "establish" could also be translated "to weigh out". This definition helps us to see the distorted view which many have of God today. They somehow have come to believe that God will weigh out their works to see if the good outweighs the bad. Or they believe that God will weigh their works against the works of others and through their eyes they can always see themselves as better than someone else.

Man does not understand that he is totally depraved. This does not mean that he acts as wickedly as he possibly could it means that every area of his life has been poisoned by sin. It is because of the poisoning that man can in no way do one thing to please God. His works may appear to be good through the eyes of others, but God sees into the heart and He knows the motives of man and man's motives are not righteous. If man appears to something "good" the motive behind it is not to glorify God so therefore it is sin.

Proverbs 21:2

² *Every way of a man is right in his own eyes: but the LORD pondereth the hearts.*

Notice Romans 10:3-4

In verse 3 we see the Jews would not submit to the righteousness of God and here in verse 4 we see that Jesus Christ is the means of God's righteousness and He is the end of the Law. But what does Paul mean when he says that Christ is the end of the Law? The Jews try their best in their zeal to keep the Law so as to be accepted by God, but they fail miserably. There are some 613 commandments in the Law, and it is impossible for any Jew to keep them. But if they were to come to Jesus Christ, they would then be free from the Law for Jesus Christ is the end of the Law.

For all of us who are IN CHRIST we are free from the Law completely. We do not have to keep the Law in an attempt to establish our own righteousness, to be accepted by God or to be made complete. IN CHRIST we are accepted, and we are complete.

Ephesians 1:6-7

⁶ *To the praise of the glory of his grace, wherein he hath made us accepted in the beloved.*

⁷ *In whom we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of sins, according to the riches of his grace;*

Colossians 2:10

¹⁰ *And ye are complete in him, which is the head of all principality and power:*

Let me show you what Paul wrote in Philippians.

Philippians 3:7-9

⁷ *But what things were gain to me, those I counted loss for Christ.*

⁸ *Yea doubtless, and I count all things but loss for the excellency of the knowledge of Christ Jesus my Lord: for whom I have suffered the loss of all things, and do count them but dung, that I may win Christ,*

⁹ *And be found in him, not having mine own righteousness, which is of the law, but that which is through the faith of Christ, the righteousness which is of God by faith:*

When a sinner comes to Jesus Christ for salvation, they/we are free from the Law. Let me refresh your mind from Romans 7.

Romans 7:1-6

Know ye not, brethren, (for I speak to them that know the law,) how that the law hath dominion over a man as long as he liveth?

² For the woman which hath an husband is bound by the law to her husband so long as he liveth; but if the husband be dead, she is loosed from the law of her husband.

³ So then if, while her husband liveth, she be married to another man, she shall be called an adulteress: but if her husband be dead, she is free from that law; so that she is no adulteress, though she be married to another man.

⁴ Wherefore, my brethren, ye also are become dead to the law by the body of Christ; that ye should be married to another, even to him who is raised from the dead, that we should bring forth fruit unto God.

⁵ For when we were in the flesh, the motions of sins, which were by the law, did work in our members to bring forth fruit unto death.

⁶ But now we are delivered from the law, that being dead wherein we were held; that we should serve in newness of spirit, and not in the oldness of the letter.

We who are believers are not under any part of the Law. Years ago, I was taught that Jesus did away with the ceremonial part of the Law but the moral and the civil part were still in effect. But I have come to understand that is not correct. Let me show you something we studied in Ephesians.

Ephesians 2:13-15

¹³ But now in Christ Jesus ye who sometimes were far off are made nigh by the blood of Christ.

¹⁴ For he is our peace, who hath made both one, and hath broken down the middle wall of partition between us;

¹⁵ Having abolished in his flesh the enmity, even the law of commandments contained in ordinances; for to make in himself of twain one new man, so making peace;

When we studied this, I had said that Christ abolished the ceremonial part of the Law. But that was not correct. Jesus Christ abolished ALL of the Law. For the Law is a whole and it cannot be separated.

James 2:10

¹⁰ For whosoever shall keep the whole law, and yet offend in one point, he is guilty of all.

Now I know there are some who would say, "Don't we need God's moral Law to understand His moral absolutes?" The answer is, "NO". God's moral absolutes were known before the Law was ever given and we know this because we have record of them being practiced in

the lives of certain people such as Enoch, Noah, Job and others. Let me show you a verse from John's Gospel.

John 1:17

¹⁷ For the law was given by Moses, but grace and truth came by Jesus Christ.

There are several thoughts to consider from this verse but there is just one I want to help you see. THIS VERSE DOES NOT IMPLY THAT PEOPLE WERE SAVED BY THE LAW IN THE OLD TESTAMENT AND THEN IN THE NEW TESTAMENT THEY WERE SAVED BY GRACE. This cannot be true because the Law was never a means of salvation. This verse implies that what the Law did in the Old Testament grace now does in the New Testament. When the Law was given to Moses it functioned as a new way to administer God's moral absolutes.

Now IN CHRIST God's moral absolutes are taught by grace.

Titus 2:11-12

¹¹ For the grace of God that bringeth salvation hath appeared to all men,

¹² Teaching us that, denying ungodliness and worldly lusts, we should live soberly, righteously, and godly, in this present world;

We see the same thought in Romans 6.

Romans 6:14

*¹⁴ For sin shall not have dominion over you: for ye are not under the law, **but under grace.***

Grace teaches us and empowers us to refuse temptation. The Law could never empower man to resist temptation. This is what Paul had in mind in Galatians 2.

Galatians 2:20-21

²⁰ I am crucified with Christ: nevertheless I live; yet not I, but Christ liveth in me: and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by the faith of the Son of God, who loved me, and gave himself for me.

²¹ I do not frustrate the grace of God: for if righteousness come by the law, then Christ is dead in vain.

Conclusion:

I don't know who is listening but if you who are listening are thinking that you can establish your own righteousness and be accepted by God by your own works in keeping the law, you

are greatly deceived. The only way you can be accepted by God is by having His righteousness imputed to your account and that happens when you repent and trust in the finished work of Jesus Christ as the payment for your sins.

Romans 3:21-23

²¹ *But now the righteousness of God without the law is manifested, being witnessed by the law and the prophets;*

²² *Even the righteousness of God which is by faith of Jesus Christ unto all and upon all them that believe: for there is no difference:*

²³ *For all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God;*