

**"God's Relationship with Israel"**

**Romans 9-11**

**Part 13**

**Introduction:** Last week in our study of Romans we finished our look at chapter 9. It was in chapter 9 that Paul taught his readers concerning the sovereignty of God in determining the line of promise in the nation of Israel. Paul explained that God is sovereign, and He can use people however He chooses to do so. He used sinful Pharaoh to make His power known throughout the world. In His judgment of Pharaoh God hardened the heart of Pharaoh and then brought upon him and Egypt the Ten Plagues. As Paul came to the end of chapter 9, he asked a question that was twofold.

**Romans 9:22-24**

*<sup>22</sup> What if God, willing to shew his wrath, and to make his power known, endured with much longsuffering the vessels of wrath fitted to destruction:*

*<sup>23</sup> And that he might make known the riches of his glory on the vessels of mercy, which he had afore prepared unto glory,*

*<sup>24</sup> Even us, whom he hath called, not of the Jews only, but also of the Gentiles?*

God can use sinful people who have fitted themselves for destruction to show for His power and He can use vessels of mercy such as us to show for the riches of His glory. The church is a prime example of the riches of God's glory. God has taken sinful people such as us, and because of His work within us we are able to bring forth righteousness thus making known the riches of His glory.

Then in the closing verses Paul explains why there is only a remnant of Israel who are saved.

**Romans 9:30-33**

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

*<sup>31</sup> But Israel, which followed after the law of righteousness, hath not attained to the law of righteousness.*

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

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

Now let me go back to the beginning of Romans 9. Paul had pointed out the 8 privileges that God had given to Israel and then he anticipated a question that would come up, "What has happened to the promises of God?" Here at the end of the chapter we see that the problem was not with God's promises, but the problem was the unbelief of Israel. They stumbled over Jesus Christ. He is the way of salvation, but many refused to place their faith in Him.

This now brings us to Romans 10 we are going to see the responsibility of man.

### **God's Relationship with Israel in the Present**

#### **Part 1**

#### **Romans 10**

#### **Notice Romans 10:1**

This verse takes our thoughts back to the opening of Romans 9. There are two points I want to help you to see here. First of all, in Romans 9 I explained to you that the context was not salvation. Paul is not teaching us that God has chosen some for salvation and not others. This verse supports that point. Paul heart's desire is for all Israel to be saved which means salvation is available to all and let us remember that these Words are inspired by the Holy Spirit. Therefore, it is God's desire for Israel to be saved. So, if salvation was by election then this statement would not make sense. God would be desiring something that He could fulfill but would not do it. The point I am making is that salvation is available for all the Jews who are living and Paul and God long to see them saved. The responsibility is on the Jew. We shall see that if they turn to Jesus Christ they can be saved.

The second point we need to see here is that the church has not replaced the nation of Israel as many teach. When Paul is speaking of Israel here, he is not referring to the church and we know that because he longs for them to be saved. The church is saved so you cannot say Paul is teaching concerning the church. He longs for the living Jew to be saved and become a member of the church. But the church has in no way replaced Israel.

**Notice Romans 10:2**

This verse contains a great deal of spiritual Truth. Paul tells his readers that he can bear record which means he can testify that the Jews certainly have a zeal of God. This zeal is FOR God and the idea is they have a desire to live for Him and please Him. Paul tells us they are full of this zeal. How did he know this? He too was a zealous lost Jew at one time.

**Philippians 3:4-6**

<sup>4</sup> *Though I might also have confidence in the flesh. If any other man thinketh that he hath whereof he might trust in the flesh, I more:*

<sup>5</sup> *Circumcised the eighth day, of the stock of Israel, of the tribe of Benjamin, an Hebrew of the Hebrews; as touching the law, a Pharisee;*

<sup>6</sup> ***Concerning zeal**, persecuting the church; touching the righteousness which is in the law, blameless.*

So, Paul could testify of their zeal. He also tells us they had zeal without knowledge. This means they were filled with zeal, but it was not a zeal that was according to God's Truth. They lacked Scriptural Truth. We must understand that the cross was very offensive to the Jews. They despised the cross for it was a sign of shame and it was used to execute the worst of criminals. This is why they could not grasp that Christ was their Messiah for He died upon the shameful cross.

**1 Corinthians 1:18-23**

<sup>18</sup> *For the preaching of the cross is to them that perish foolishness; but unto us which are saved it is the power of God.*

<sup>19</sup> *For it is written, I will destroy the wisdom of the wise, and will bring to nothing the understanding of the prudent.*

<sup>20</sup> *Where is the wise? where is the scribe? where is the disputer of this world? hath not God made foolish the wisdom of this world?*

<sup>21</sup> *For after that in the wisdom of God the world by wisdom knew not God, it pleased God by the foolishness of preaching to save them that believe.*

<sup>22</sup> *For the Jews require a sign, and the Greeks seek after wisdom:*

<sup>23</sup> *But we preach Christ crucified, unto the Jews a stumblingblock, and unto the Greeks foolishness;*

The Old Testament contains verses that tell of the crucifixion of Jesus Christ, but the Jews missed it.

**Isaiah 53:4-11**

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

<sup>5</sup> *But he was wounded for our transgressions, he was bruised for our iniquities: the chastisement of our peace was upon him; and with his stripes we are healed.*

<sup>6</sup> *All we like sheep have gone astray; we have turned every one to his own way; and the LORD hath laid on him the iniquity of us all.*

<sup>7</sup> *He was oppressed, and he was afflicted, yet he opened not his mouth: he is brought as a lamb to the slaughter, and as a sheep before her shearers is dumb, so he openeth not his mouth.*

<sup>8</sup> *He was taken from prison and from judgment: and who shall declare his generation? for he was cut off out of the land of the living: for the transgression of my people was he stricken.*

<sup>9</sup> *And he made his grave with the wicked, and with the rich in his death; because he had done no violence, neither was any deceit in his mouth.*

<sup>10</sup> *Yet it pleased the LORD to bruise him; he hath put him to grief: when thou shalt make his soul an offering for sin, he shall see his seed, he shall prolong his days, and the pleasure of the LORD shall prosper in his hand.*

<sup>11</sup> *He shall see of the travail of his soul, and shall be satisfied: by his knowledge shall my righteous servant justify many; for he shall bear their iniquities.*

So, the zeal of Israel is commendable, but they had not the true knowledge.

**Application:**

There is an application here that we must not miss. Zeal by itself is not sufficient. Zeal for God is great, but it must be based upon the proper knowledge. This is exactly why we study the Scriptures as we do. We study them in an expository manner because we must understand them in the context they are written. Many churches today believe it is ok to have zeal without knowledge. They spend most of the time trying to stir the hearts of people with their worship methods, but they never engage the mind. In other words, they

spend little time studying the Word of God verse by verse and they spend much of their time with music, specials, and entertainment. So, they end up with people who are zealous without knowledge. This accomplishes absolutely nothing.

**Illustration:**

*"Someone has said that zeal is like the fuel in a rocket and knowledge is the guidance system. If there is no guidance system but lots of fuel the rocket will take off, but it has no direction. It will burn the fuel, but it will never hit the intended target. It will simply fly around aimlessly. If you have a rocket that has a great guidance and no fuel it will never leave the launch pad."*

So, for us there must be a balance. We must be filled with the proper knowledge and we must be zealous.

Let me give you an example of what zeal without knowledge will do in someone's life. There are many who claim to have some kind of spiritual experience that is completely contrary to the Bible and when they are told their experience is not accurate, they become offended. They have zeal but no knowledge and so they cling to experience instead of the Truth of God's Word. They will then go to the Bible and they will pick and chose verses in an attempt to justify their experiences. They use verses that are taken completely out of context as they do this.

The educated believer does the opposite of this. We use our knowledge of God's Word to judge our experiences and this keeps everything in check. Zeal without knowledge can be very dangerous. It opens a person up to be deceived, and it can lead a believer to actually work against the purpose of God all because they lack knowledge.

Let me add one more thought here that also needs to be known. Zeal and sincerity will not save anyone. People can be very zealous for God and they can be extremely sincere in what they believe but if they do not have the proper knowledge it is all for nothing. If they do not know Jesus Christ as their Savior, they are lost and, on a path, leading to hell and destruction. Let me show you several verses that show the danger of zeal without knowledge.

**Matthew 7:13-14**

<sup>13</sup> *Enter ye in at the strait gate: for wide is the gate, and broad is the way, that leadeth to destruction, and many there be which go in thereat:*

<sup>14</sup> *Because strait is the gate, and narrow is the way, which leadeth unto life, and few there be that find it.*

The BROAD PATH is the religious path. These people have a zeal for God, and they are sincere, but they are lost because they lack saving knowledge.

**Matthew 7:21-23**

<sup>21</sup> *Not every one that saith unto me, Lord, Lord, shall enter into the kingdom of heaven; but he that doeth the will of my Father which is in heaven.*

<sup>22</sup> *Many will say to me in that day, Lord, Lord, have we not prophesied in thy name? and in thy name have cast out devils? and in thy name done many wonderful works?*

<sup>23</sup> *And then will I profess unto them, I never knew you: depart from me, ye that work iniquity.*

Now let us get back to our text and to Israel.

**Notice Romans 10:3**

The majority of the Nation of Israel are focused upon self-righteousness. They work to establish their own righteousness. Because of their lack of knowledge concerning God's righteousness they go about trying to establish their own righteousness. Let me show you how a person attains the righteousness of God.

**Romans 3:21-24**

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

<sup>22</sup> *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:*

<sup>23</sup> *For all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God;*

<sup>24</sup> *Being justified freely by his grace through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus:*

The righteousness of God is imputed to the sinner who believes that Jesus Christ paid for his or her sins. When we rest our faith in Jesus Christ our sin is removed from our account and the righteousness of God is imputed to our account. This is known as the ONE TIME LEGAL ACT of JUSTIFICATION. This is the only way in which man can be accepted by God. We cannot establish our own righteousness by any means.

**Isaiah 64:6**

<sup>6</sup> *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.*

There are no works which we can do to please God. Man cannot establish his own righteousness. The Jews attempted to do it by keeping the Law.

Application:

There is an application here for believers that I really need to touch upon. The Jews seek to please God by the works of the Law because of "IGNORANCE". There are also many believers today that live under legalism in an attempt to please God. They have a certain set of rules that they have made, or they have borrowed from the Law in the Old Testament and they want to place themselves under these Laws and they want to place those around them under these Laws. They are ignorant of the fact that we cannot please God in the works of the flesh. We are not under the Law, but we are under grace. Now someone may object by saying that we need the Law in order to understand God's moral absolutes. But that is not what the Bible teaches.

**Titus 2:11-12**

<sup>11</sup> *For the grace of God that bringeth salvation hath appeared to all men,*

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

In the body of Christ, we are taught by the grace of God as to how to live. This grace teaching comes as we are controlled by the Holy Spirit. Those who live under a set of rules or try to live under the Law, who are legalists, then miss out on God's rest.

**Hebrews 4:1, 9-11**

*Let us therefore fear, lest, a promise being left us of entering into his rest, any of you should seem to come short of it.*

<sup>9</sup> *There remaineth therefore a rest to the people of God.*

<sup>10</sup> *For he that is entered into his rest, he also hath ceased from his own works, as God did from his.*

*<sup>11</sup> Let us labour therefore to enter into that rest, lest any man fall after the same example of unbelief.*

**Conclusion:**

We are saved by GRACE through faith and we are then taught by GRACE. No man or woman can establish their own righteousness. God will only accept His own righteousness that is imputed when we rest our faith in Jesus Christ.

Are you standing in your righteousness or are you standing in God's righteousness?