

"God's Relationship with Israel"

Romans 9-11

Part 16

Introduction: Tonight, in our study of Romans we are going to look at several verses that are misunderstood by many. In these verses Paul is going to reach back to the Old Testament to gather the words written by Moses to make a very important point to his Jewish readers. Let us keep in mind that Paul has already explained to us that the majority of the Jews are caught up in establishing their own righteousness because they are ignorant of God's righteousness.

Last week we stopped on Romans 10:5 which is a quote from Leviticus 18:5.

Notice Romans 10:5

Leviticus 18:5

⁵Ye shall therefore keep my statutes, and my judgments: which if a man do, he shall live in them: I am the LORD.

The idea here in Leviticus 18 is that if someone who is under the Law keeps the Law perfectly then they shall live. You see the Law called for the death of those who violated it. This is the "GOSPEL" of the Law, DO AND LIVE, but it is really no "GOSPEL/GOODNEWS" because not one of us could ever keep the Law perfectly. There are some 613 commandments in the Law and to break one is to break them all.

James 2:10

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

So, getting back to Romans 10:5 Paul tells his readers that to achieve righteousness by the Law means one would need to keep the Law perfectly. But no one can keep the Law perfectly and besides this the Law was never given to save us.

Romans 3:19-20

¹⁹Now 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.

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

Now as we return to the text, I want you to understand that Paul is pointing out a major contrast in verse 5 and the verses that follow. The contrast is between LAW

RIGHTEOUSNESS and GRACE RIGHTEOUSNESS. Law righteousness is based upon man's works whereas grace righteousness is based upon the finished work of Jesus Christ.

*"The legal formula for salvation is this: **DO AND LIVE!** (Keep all the commandments and keep them perfectly and keep them continually and you will live!)"*

*The grace/cross formula for salvation is this: **BELIEVE AND LIVE!** Believe and rest upon what Christ has already done (His finished work) and you shall have eternal life."*

This now brings us to where we are in our study tonight.

God's Relationship with Israel in the Present

Part 4

Romans 10

Notice Romans 10:5-8

Here we begin to see the contrast which Paul is pointing out, but we cannot fully understand what Paul is saying here without some research. In verses 6-8 Paul is quoting from Deuteronomy 30. Let us look at the verses and then consider them in the proper context then we shall look at the verses in Romans 10.

Deuteronomy 30:11-14

¹¹ For this commandment which I command thee this day, it is not hidden from thee, neither is it far off.

¹² It is not in heaven, that thou shouldest say, Who shall go up for us to heaven, and bring it unto us, that we may hear it, and do it?

¹³ Neither is it beyond the sea, that thou shouldest say, Who shall go over the sea for us, and bring it unto us, that we may hear it, and do it?

¹⁴ But the word is very nigh unto thee, in thy mouth, and in thy heart, that thou mayest do it.

Moses, who was the leader of Israel had been the man who went up Mount Sinai, met with God, and brought the Law down to them. He is now about to die. He is leaving them with not just the Ten Commandments but also the statutes, ordinances, precepts and judgments connected with them. Let us then consider the natural reaction of the people when Moses goes to Mount Pisgah and dies and then God buries him. It would have been something like this: "Moses, who brought us the Law, is gone! Moses received this Law from God Himself,

who came down in all His majesty and glory. Now Moses is dead; and all we have left is, these written Words! We are in a different circumstance than our fathers who saw the presence of God and heard His Words. Who then will go up to heaven for us now, and come down, and make us hear this Law in the same way our fathers heard it? Or, maybe there would be someone beyond the sea, some great teacher, like Moses, who can come and make us hear like our fathers heard so that we can walk in his words."

Moses' response was, "You have the word. It is near you, for it is in your mouth and in your heart and so you can live it." The point which Moses is making is, the Law had already been given at Mount Sinai. They no longer needed a great manifestation, nor did they need a sign. They had what they needed as far as the Law of Moses. Therefore, all they needed to do was submit to it. Now let me show you how this is applied in Romans 10.

Notice Romans 10:6 again.

Paul now takes Moses' words and he applies them to faith in Jesus Christ instead of the Law.

The unsaved Jews would be looking for the Messiah so they would see the need for the Messiah to come down from God. Just like the Israelites would desire for someone to go into the presence of God to bring a great manifestation like Moses did, so they looked for the Messiah to come and give them a sign.

But they needed to understand that He had already come. No one needed to go into God's presence to bring Him down. There were also many signs for the Jews. There was the virgin birth, the miracles He did, and the resurrection.

Notice Romans 10:7 again.

The Jew would then say, "If He came and He died then someone will need to descend to bring Him out of the grave." But there was no need for this because Jesus rose from the dead on the third day.

Notice Romans 10:8

Just like the Law had already been given to the people of Israel and all they needed to do was submit to it so it is the same with the "WORD OF FAITH", this is a reference to the Gospel and all that is contained in the Gospel. Jesus Christ had already come, and the message of the GOOD NEWS has already been proclaimed and so the Jews only needed to submit.

Notice Romans 10:3

Here again we see that they would not submit. They had the message of Jesus Christ, so they just need to accept it.

Notice Romans 10:9

Now we must understand that it is assumed here that the entire Gospel has been preached to this hearer. There are many people who want to use this verse without the hearer knowing why they need a Savior or why they need to be saved. Let me remind you that as Paul presents Romans 10, he is assuming his readers have started at the beginning of the book of Romans. The Holy Spirit presupposes that the reader has read through the Doctrine of Condemnation. The Holy Spirit presupposes the reader has examined verses such as:

Romans 3:10-18

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.

¹³ Their throat is an open sepulchre; with their tongues they have used deceit; the poison of asps is under their lips:

¹⁴ Whose mouth is full of cursing and bitterness:

¹⁵ Their feet are swift to shed blood:

¹⁶ Destruction and misery are in their ways:

¹⁷ And the way of peace have they not known:

¹⁸ There is no fear of God before their eyes.

Notice Romans 10:9 again.

What does it mean to confess with the mouth that Jesus Christ is Lord? The word "confess" means "to say the same thing". So, to confess the Lord Jesus is to say the same thing about Him which God's Word says. The Bible tells us He is the Son of God who came into this world to die for the sins of the world.

1 Corinthians 15:3-4

³ For I delivered unto you first of all that which I also received, how that Christ died for our sins according to the scriptures;

⁴ *And that he was buried, and that he rose again the third day according to the scriptures:*

When a person is truly saved, they will confess publicly what the Bible says about Jesus Christ. Notice what John says about the witness of God concerning Jesus Christ.

1 John 5:9-12

⁹ *If we receive the witness of men, the witness of God is greater: for this is the witness of God which he hath testified of his Son.*

¹⁰ *He that believeth on the Son of God hath the witness in himself: he that believeth not God hath made him a liar; because he believeth not the record that God gave of his Son.*

¹¹ *And this is the record, that God hath given to us eternal life, and this life is in his Son.*

¹² *He that hath the Son hath life; and he that hath not the Son of God hath not life.*

Notice Romans 10:9 again.

Salvation begins in the heart. It is with the heart that man believes and is saved. Head knowledge is not salvation. There are many who have head knowledge but there are few who have belief in their heart. True saving faith changes a person's life forever because God changes our hearts. He places within each of us the heart of Jesus Christ.

2 Corinthians 5:17

¹⁷ *Therefore if any man be in Christ, he is a new creature: old things are passed away; behold, all things are become new.*

Notice Romans 10:10

Here in this verse we see the order of salvation. First man believes within his heart the Truth concerning Jesus Christ. This is faith in what the Bible says about Jesus Christ. This faith then brings the righteousness of God.

Romans 3:21-22

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:*

Romans 4:3-5

³ *For what saith the scripture? Abraham believed God, and it was counted unto him for righteousness.*

⁴ Now to him that worketh is the reward not reckoned of grace, but of debt.

⁵ But to him that worketh not, but believeth on him that justifieth the ungodly, his faith is counted for righteousness.

Notice Romans 10:10 again.

The second order of salvation is confession. This does not mean that confession is a condition of salvation. Instead it means that confession is the natural result or evidence of salvation. We do not confess Jesus Christ in order to be saved but we confess Jesus Christ because we ARE saved. When a person is truly saved it is not possible for them to contain the joy within them. Someone has said that BELIEVING is the root and CONFESSION is the fruit.

Notice Romans 10:11

This verse explains verse 10. The TRUE believer will not be ashamed to confess Jesus Christ to the people around them. People who refuse to talk about their faith or talk about Jesus Christ need to look within their hearts. I say this because this verse is very clear that TRUE salvation will be manifest through confession of Jesus Christ. I have heard people say they are believers, but they do not talk about their faith. That statement is contrary to what the Bible tells us about a true believer.

Now not everyone who confesses Jesus Christ is a True believer. A True believer will be marked by a changed life and confession. There are many who confess they are believers, but their lives do not produce the evidence.

Matthew 7:15-23

¹⁵ Beware of false prophets, which come to you in sheep's clothing, but inwardly they are ravening wolves.

¹⁶ Ye shall know them by their fruits. Do men gather grapes of thorns, or figs of thistles?

¹⁷ Even so every good tree bringeth forth good fruit; but a corrupt tree bringeth forth evil fruit.

¹⁸ A good tree cannot bring forth evil fruit, neither can a corrupt tree bring forth good fruit.

¹⁹ Every tree that bringeth not forth good fruit is hewn down, and cast into the fire.

²⁰ Wherefore by their fruits ye shall know them.

²¹ 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.

²² 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?

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

Titus 1:15-16

¹⁵ Unto the pure all things are pure: but unto them that are defiled and unbelieving is nothing pure; but even their mind and conscience is defiled.

¹⁶ They profess that they know God; but in works they deny him, being abominable, and disobedient, and unto every good work reprobate.

2 Timothy 2:19

¹⁹ Nevertheless the foundation of God standeth sure, having this seal, The Lord knoweth them that are his. And, let every one that nameth the name of Christ depart from iniquity.

I am reminded of what Paul wrote to the Corinthians.

1 Corinthians 6:9-10

⁹ Know ye not that the unrighteous shall not inherit the kingdom of God? Be not deceived: neither fornicators, nor idolaters, nor adulterers, nor effeminate, nor abusers of themselves with mankind,

¹⁰ Nor thieves, nor covetous, nor drunkards, nor revilers, nor extortioners, shall inherit the kingdom of God.

Conclusion:

True salvation is evident by a changed life and by confessing Jesus Christ as Lord. Is there evidence in your life?