

**You are saved by grace through faith in Christ**  
**Romans 9:30–10:4**  
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**Big idea:** We are made righteous not by works but by faith in Christ's finished work.

**Romans 1:16-17** For I am not ashamed of the gospel, for it is the power of God for salvation to everyone who believes, to the Jew first and also to the Greek. <sup>17</sup> For in it the righteousness of God is revealed from faith for faith, as it is written, "The righteous shall live by faith."

## **1. RIGHTEOUSNESS IS NOT SOMETHING YOU ACHIEVE BUT A GIFT YOU RECEIVE (9:30-32).**

**a. Righteousness is a gift received by faith (v. 30)**

**b. Righteousness cannot be achieved by works (vv. 31-32a)**

**> How does a righteous God make the unrighteous righteous?**

**Romans 3:20–23** For by works of the law no human being will be justified in his sight, since through the law comes knowledge of sin. <sup>21</sup> But now the righteousness of God has been manifested apart from the law, although the Law and the Prophets bear witness to it— <sup>22</sup> the righteousness of God through faith in Jesus Christ for all who believe. For there is no distinction: <sup>23</sup> for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God,

## **2. REJECTION OF GOD'S RIGHTEOUSNESS HAS ETERNAL CONSEQUENCES (9:32B-33)**

**Two responses with consequences:**

**a. Stumble over the stumbling stone that brings condemnation (v. 32b-33a; Isa 8:12-15)**

**> Why did Israel stumble over Christ?**

(1) They thought that keeping the law would make them righteous before God (9:31-32).

(2) They did not see their need to be saved from sin and judgment (10:1).

**Romans 5:6–10** For while we were still weak, at the right time Christ died for the ungodly. <sup>7</sup> For one will scarcely die for a righteous person—though perhaps for a good person one would dare even to die— <sup>8</sup> but God shows his love for us in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us. <sup>9</sup> Since, therefore, we have now been justified by his blood, much more shall we be saved by him from the wrath of God. <sup>10</sup> For if while we were enemies we were reconciled to God by the death of his Son, much more, now that we are reconciled, shall we be saved by his life.

(3) They had zeal for God, but not according to knowledge (10:2).

**Proverbs 19:2** Desire without knowledge is not good, and whoever makes haste with his feet misses his way.

(4) Their ignorance stemmed from a willful, stubborn resistance to the truth (10:3).

**> Only two options:**

1. Attempt to establish your own righteousness.

Deeply ingrained in people's hostility to divine grace is a proud and stubborn self-reliance that would rather suffer loss than be deprived of an occasion for boasting. -**Robert Mounce**

2. Submit to God's righteousness by receiving it as a gift.

> **Why do we stumble?** Because faith in Christ requires that we lay down our self-righteousness and accept his righteousness by faith.

That was the tragic error of Israel. And it is also the tragic error made by multitudes of people in the Christian church today. The Jews pursued righteousness, but they pursued it in exactly the opposite way from that in which it is to be found. They pursued it in their own strength, by their own works, by their own merit, and consequently fell into a spirit of self-righteousness.

**Sproul, R. C. - *The Gospel of God: An Exposition of Romans*, pp. 176–177**

**b. Stand on the cornerstone that brings salvation (v. 33b; Isa. 28:16).**

> **Don't stumble over Christ the stumbling stone; stand on Christ the cornerstone.**

**1 Peter 2:4–10** As you come to him, a living stone rejected by men but in the sight of God chosen and precious, 5 you yourselves like living stones are being built up as a spiritual house, to be a holy priesthood, to offer spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ. 6 For it stands in Scripture: Behold, I am laying in Zion a stone, a cornerstone chosen and precious, and whoever believes in him will not be put to shame." 7 So the honor is for you who believe, but for those who do not believe, "The stone that the builders rejected has become the cornerstone," 8 and "A stone of stumbling, and a rock of offense." They stumble because they disobey the word, as they were destined to do. 9 But you are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people for his own possession, that you may proclaim the excellencies of him who called you out of darkness into his marvelous light. 10 Once you were not a people, but now you are God's people; once you had not received mercy, but now you have received mercy.

### **3. THOSE WHO TRUST IN CHRIST CEASE USING THE LAW TO ESTABLISH THEIR OWN RIGHTEOUSNESS (10:4).**

> **Why do we cease using the law to establish our own righteousness?**

(1) Because we rest in our righteous standing with God (Rom. 3:20-23).

(2) Because we have peace with God (Rom. 5:1-2).

1 Therefore, since we are justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ, 2 through whom we have obtained access to this grace in which we stand; and we boast in our hope of sharing the glory of God.

(3) Because our standing is based solely on the work of Christ not ours (Rom. 8:1-4).

**Rom. 8:1-4** There is therefore now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus. 2 For the law of the Spirit of life has set you free in Christ Jesus from the law of sin and death. 3 For God has done what the law, weakened by the flesh, could not do. By sending his own Son in the likeness of sinful flesh and for sin, he condemned sin in the flesh, 4 in order that the righteous requirement of the law might be fulfilled in us, who walk not according to the flesh but according to the Spirit.