

ROMANS 9:30-10:4

HOW 1ST CENTURY JEWS MISSED JESUS

ROMANS REVIEW

Romans 1:18-3:20 – The need for righteousness for justification

Romans 3:21-5:21 – Justification by grace through faith in Jesus

Romans 6:1-8:39 – Sanctification by grace through faith in Jesus
– Assurance of our hope

Romans 9:1-11:36 – God's dealings with Israel

ROMANS 9:30-10:4

30 What shall we say, then? That Gentiles who did not pursue righteousness have attained it, that is, a righteousness that is by faith; 31 but that Israel who pursued a law that would lead to righteousness did not succeed in reaching that law. 32 Why? Because they did not pursue it by faith, but as if it were based on works. They have stumbled over the stumbling stone, 33 as it is written,

“Behold, I am laying in Zion a stone of stumbling, and a rock of offense; and whoever believes in him will not be put to shame.”

ROMANS 9:30-10:4

10:1 Brothers, my heart's desire and prayer to God for them is that they may be saved. 2 For I bear them witness that they have a zeal for God, but not according to knowledge. 3 For, being ignorant of the righteousness of God, and seeking to establish their own, they did not submit to God's righteousness. 4 For Christ is the end of the law for righteousness to everyone who believes.

Paul's shift in focus

An aside from our main point

9:1-29 – God's sovereignty in Israel's falling away

9:30-10:4 – Israel's responsibility in their failure to receive Jesus

ROMANS 9:30-31

30 What shall we say, then? That Gentiles who did not pursue righteousness have attained it, that is, a righteousness that is by faith; 31 but that Israel who pursued a law that would lead to righteousness did not succeed in reaching that law.

See also: Acts: 11:34-48 , 13:44-49, 14:27, 17:1-4, 18:4-6, 19:8-10, 28:17-28

Observation: There are more Gentiles than Jews entering the Church.

Conclusion: Jews who were pursuing righteousness didn't get it, while Gentiles who were not pursuing righteousness did receive it.

ROMANS 9:32A

Why?...

ROMANS 9:32-33

32 Why? Because they did not pursue it by faith, but as if it were based on works. They have stumbled over the stumbling stone, 33 as it is written,

“Behold, I am laying in Zion a stone of stumbling, and a rock of offense;

1. Pursued righteousness through works (garnering glory for themselves)
In connection with...
2. Failed to receive what God was doing in Jesus

A WALK THROUGH JOHN 5

John 5:1-9 – Jesus meets and heals an invalid on the Sabbath

John 5:10-13 – The man is approached by the Jews for carrying his mat on the Sabbath

John 5:14-16 – It is discovered that Jesus healed Him and told him to carry his mat

The Jews are upset with Jesus

John 5:17 – Jesus defends Himself and draws connection between Himself and the Father

A WALK THROUGH JOHN 5

John 5:18 – The Jews are further upset by Jesus claims

John 5:19-40 – Jesus defends His authority and identity and culminates with this message to the Jews that are rejecting Him:

“³⁹ You search the Scriptures because you think that in them you have eternal life; and it is they that bear witness about me, ⁴⁰ yet you refuse to come to me that you may have life.”

ROMANS 10:1

1 Brothers, my heart's desire and prayer to God for them is that they may be saved.

Failing to receive Christ and submit to the righteousness of God means that you are not saved.

“Saved” here is referring to changing of the verdict from condemned to justified earning peace with God. (Romans 3:21-26 & 5:1)

ROMANS 10:2-3

2 For I bear them witness that they have a zeal for God, but not according to knowledge. 3 For, being ignorant of the righteousness of God, and seeking to establish their own, they did not submit to God's righteousness.

ROMANS 10:2-3

1. Zeal (passion) without knowledge.
2. They seek to establish their own righteousness.
3. They did not submit to God's righteousness (1:16-7 & 3:21-26)

In conjunction with Romans 2:1-3:20, they fail to uphold the law.

Conclusion: They are not righteous, but sinners and therefore condemned and not saved.

ROMANS 10:4

4 For Christ is the end of the law for righteousness to everyone who believes.

What does Paul mean by “end”?

The termination point? The conclusion of the law? The end of an era where the law held prominence?

The thing to which the law was pointing? The law’s “telos” or purpose. “To what end?”

HEBREWS 10:1, 14, 26-27

¹ For since the law has but a shadow of the good things to come instead of the true form of these realities, it can never, by the same sacrifices that are continually offered every year, make perfect those who draw near.

...

¹⁴ For by a single offering he (Christ) has perfected for all time those who are being sanctified.

...

²⁶ For if we go on sinning deliberately after receiving the knowledge of the truth, there no longer remains a sacrifice for sins, ²⁷ but a fearful expectation of judgment, and a fury of fire that will consume the adversaries.

A WALK THROUGH JOHN 5

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APPLICATION

Does this happen today?

Do we trust our own righteousness rather than submit to God's through Christ?

Do we fail to receive what God did through Christ, because we have passion without knowledge?

APPLICATION

“In Franciscan parlance, *Jesus did not come to change the mind of God about humanity; Jesus came to change the mind of humanity about God.* This grounds Christianity in pure love and perfect freedom from the very beginning. It creates a very coherent and utterly positive spirituality, which draws people toward lives of inner depth, prayer, reconciliation, healing, and even universal “at-one-ment,” instead of mere sacrificial atonement. Nothing *changed* on Calvary, but *everything was revealed as God’s suffering love*—so that we could change!”

-Richard Rohr’s Center for Action and Contemplation

APPLICATION

“What the cross is not is a *quid pro quo* where God agrees to forgive upon receipt of his Son’s murder. What the cross is not is an economic transaction whereby God gains the capital to forgive. These legal and fiscal models for understanding the cross simply will not do.

Jesus does not save us from God, Jesus reveals God as savior. What is revealed on Good Friday is not a monstrous deity requiring a virgin to be thrown into a volcano or a firstborn son to be nailed to a tree. What is revealed on Good Friday is the depths of human depravity and the greater depths of God’s love.

APPLICATION

“Before the cross is anything else, it is a catastrophe. It is the unjust and violent lynching of an innocent man. It is the murder of God. Jesus is sacrificed by the Father only in this sense: The Father sent his Son into our system of violent power (civilization) to reveal how utterly sinful it is — so sinful that it will murder the Innocent One. God did not will the murder of his Son, he simply knew it would occur.”

- Brian Zahnd

APPLICATION

What about the “average” person at church?

“Are you a good person?”

“Yeah, I’m a pretty good person. I do more good than bad, overall. Even when people do bad things, I still think that people are good deep down.”

“Do you think, when you die, you will go to heaven? – Why?”

“Yeah, I’ll be let in, because I’m a pretty good person.”

ROMANS 10:2-3

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2. They seek to establish their own righteousness.
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In conjunction with Romans 2:1-3:20, they fail to uphold the law.

Conclusion: They are not righteous, but sinners and therefore condemned and not saved.

APPLICATION

Why is this good news?

In a world where everyone is really a good person deep down, there is no room for grace.

In the Gospel, we are free and even encouraged to admit our failures, because there is grace from God for the forgiveness of our sins.

APPLICATION

1. Zeal (passion) without knowledge

- Seek to have passion lead by knowledge revealed by God's word.

2. They seek to establish their own righteousness.

- Repent of our sins.

3. They did not submit to God's righteousness (1:16-7 & 3:21-26)

- Submit ourselves to Jesus and ask for grace