## Romans 9:30-10:4 For the week of September 24, 2023

#### Reflection

| 1. | What were s | ome of the | takeaways, | for you, | from Sund | ay's sermon? |
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2. Were there questions, comments, concerns...?

Justification by faith was a stumbling block to Israel. It stood in the way of their own popular religious philosophy of works and became the obstacle that brought about their fall. Paul mingled two passages from Isaiah to describe the situation (Isa 8:14; 28:16). In Zion was placed a stone that made people stumble and a rock that would trip them up. Those who placed their trust in Christ, however, would never be disappointed.<sup>40</sup> What was true in Paul's day remains true today. Sinners still reject the righteousness of God because they cannot earn it. It is absolutely free. They stumble over the offer because it deprives them of any proprietary involvement in their own salvation. It is pride that brings people down. How deeply ingrained is our rebellious self-esteem! Too proud to accept God's willingness to forgive, sinners stumble headlong into eternity with their stubborn sinfulness intact.

Paul left no doubt about his deep affection for his fellow Israelites. He had just criticized their attempt to secure acceptance before God by performing all that the law required. They pursued righteousness but failed to achieve it because they sought it by personal merit rather than by faith. The deep longing of Paul's heart was that his countrymen experience salvation. The reality of his love is seen in the fact that he prayed for them. He, like they, belonged to that special race through whom God had revealed himself in history. Reflecting on his preconversion days, he told the Galatians of his extreme zeal for the traditions of the fathers (Gal 1:14; cf. Acts 22:3). But God met him on the Damascus road, and his eyes were opened to God's way of righteousness. The experience did not turn him bitter against his former associates but rather kindled within his heart a burning desire that they too might experience the forgiving grace of God through Jesus Christ.<sup>1</sup>

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> Robert H. Mounce, <u>Romans</u>, vol. 27, The New American Commentary (Nashville: Broadman & Holman Publishers, 1995), 206–207.

| Observation   | 19:30-33 |
|---------------|----------|
| CD3CI VUIIOII | 17.00-00 |

3. What is Paul comparing in these verses?

# **Interpretation**

4. What is righteousness that is by faith?

5. How is justification by faith a stumbling block?

## **Application**

6. Do you struggle with works verses faith? Why or why not?

## Observation (10:1-4)

7. What is Paul wrestling with here?

| Inte | <u>erpretation</u>  |
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| 8.   | How is Israel's zeal for God their greatest barrier?  |
| 9.   | How can Paul relate to this zeal (see Acts 22:3-5 and Galatians 1:14)?  |
|      | "For Christ is the end of the law for righteousness to everyone who believes." -Romans 10:4 ditate on this verse and share what it means with your group. |
|      | olication  Are there times that your zeal for God becomes a stumbling block? Why or why not?  |

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>2</sup> <u>The Holy Bible: English Standard Version</u> (Wheaton, IL: Crossway Bibles, 2016), Ro 10:4.