

Romans Chapter 10

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Introduction:

In the last chapter, Paul showed the justice of God in rejecting Israel and taking up with the Gentiles and including them among the friends of God.

Now Paul repeats his heart-felt concern for his countrymen and adds that he is praying for them.

The green headings in **SMALL-CAPS** are designed to aid with understanding the flow of thought.

PAUL'S PRAYER FOR HIS PEOPLE

Romans 10 NLT

(1) Dear brothers and sisters, the longing of my heart and my prayer to God is for the people of Israel to be saved.

- It is clear that **Israel** is not now **saved** and that they must make changes before they can become friends with **God**. They have a commendable trait (verse 2) but it will not **save** them.
- That Paul prayed for Israel shows that there was not a heavenly decree that determined their response to the gospel and it *was possible* for them to change.

(2) I know what enthusiasm they have for God, but it is misdirected zeal.

- **Four examples of misdirected zeal for God in Israel:**

- The leaders charged the Son of God with *blasphemy* when He told a man that his sins were forgiven:

Some people brought to Him a paralyzed man on a mat. Seeing their faith, Jesus said to the paralyzed man, "Be encouraged, My child! Your sins are forgiven." But some

of the teachers of religious law said to themselves, "That's blasphemy! Does He think He's God?" Matthew 9:2-3 NLT

While it's commendable that the Jewish teachers stood up to defend God's name, they were ignoring the evidence that Jesus had just performed an outstanding miracle. Their zeal ignored the facts before their eyes.

- The leaders harassed the Son who had created the universe and keeps it going.

So the Jewish leaders began harassing Jesus for breaking the Sabbath rules. But Jesus replied, "My Father is always working, and so am I." (John 5:16-17 NLT)

God the Father keeps this universe percolating seven days per week. He ignores all of the Jewish interpretations of what can be done on the Sabbath. Jesus, His Son, wasn't going to postpone an opportunity to do good on a Sabbath, either.

- The leaders labeled the *sinless* Son of God as a *sinner*.

So for the second time they called in the man who had been blind and told him, "God should get the glory for this, because we know this man Jesus is a sinner." (John 9:24 NLT)

They came to that conclusion because Jesus healed the blind man on the Sabbath, violating their view of what could be done on the Sabbath Day. They ignored the impossible healing of a man born blind. It had never happened in human history.

- The leaders decided to kill the perfect Son of God in order to save Israel from being destroyed by the Romans.

Caiaphas, who was high priest at that time, said, "You don't know what you're talking about! You don't realize that it's better for you that one man should die for the people than for the whole nation to be destroyed." He did not say this on his own; as high priest at that time he was led to prophesy that Jesus would die for the entire nation. And not only for that nation, but to bring together and unite all the children of God scattered around the world. So from that time on, the Jewish leaders began to plot Jesus' death. (John 11:49-53 NLT)

The leaders didn't mind condemning an innocent man without a trial as the Law prescribes or even having Him present. They didn't mind breaking the Law as long as they could preserve their beloved Israel. They were men of **zeal**.

The irony of this is that God sent the Romans to destroy Jerusalem in A.D. 70 BECAUSE they had killed the Son of God.

The Jewish leaders had a great **zeal for God**, but they didn't have a great **zeal** for *truth*. Their **zeal** was **misdirected**. **Zeal** in the Greek text means "to boil." These leaders were boiling about Jesus.

ISRAEL'S MISUNDERSTANDING

(3) For they don't understand God's way of making people right with Himself. Refusing to accept God's way, they cling to their own way of getting right with God by trying to keep the law.

- These men of misplaced zeal believed that God's favor was secured by keeping the **Law** of Moses.

(4) For Christ has already accomplished the purpose for which the law was given. As a result, all who believe in Him are made right with God.

- This statement is a reminder of what Paul said in Chapter 3:

Well then, if we emphasize faith, does this mean that we can forget about the law? Of course not! In fact, only when we have faith do we truly fulfill the law. (Romans 3:31 NLT)

MOSES WROTE ABOUT THIS MISUNDERSTANDING

(5) For Moses writes that the law's way of making a person right with God requires obedience to all of its commands.

- Probably Paul was alluding to Moses' comment in Leviticus.

If you obey My decrees and My regulations, you will find life through them. I am the LORD. (Leviticus 18:5 NLT)

- Only one person ever kept the law perfectly. **Burton Coffman** describes Jesus this way:

The mountain of fact concerning Christ is that he indeed kept the law perfectly, his faith and obedience reaching a state of absolute perfection for every second of his total life on earth. That is what God requires to save any man. That is the righteousness which alone can save.

(6) But faith's way of getting right with God says, "Don't say in your heart, 'Who will go up to heaven?' (to bring Christ down to earth). (7) And don't say, 'Who will go down to the place of the dead?' (to bring Christ back to life again)."

- Paul quotes and adapts from Deuteronomy, but he doesn't say so. Readers familiar with Scripture would know the Scripture that he was adapting:

- ✓ It is *not kept* in heaven, so distant that you must ask, 'Who will go up to heaven and bring it down so we can hear it and obey?'
- ✓ It is *not kept* beyond the sea, so far away that you must ask, 'Who will cross the sea to bring it to us so we can hear it and obey?'

✓ **No, the message is very close at hand; it is on your lips and in your heart so that you can obey it.** (Deuteronomy 30:12-14 NLT)

Note in each of the three sentences that the location of the message of God is discussed. It is not necessary to travel a distance to locate the **message** that comes from God. It is a close as our **heart and lips**.

Also note that Paul uses this framework from Deuteronomy to focus on the name of **Christ**.

- In verse 6, he speaks of **bringing Christ down to earth**. This was an extremely difficult fact for Jewish people to believe. Jesus of Nazareth just wasn't the kind of Messiah they were looking for. In verse 7, Paul speaks of the resurrection, another fact the Jewish followers of Moses just could not accept.

(8) In fact, it says, "The message is very close at hand; it is on your lips and in your heart." And that message is the very message about faith that we preach:

- Notice that accepting the message of Christ is something that anyone can do. Following the law of Moses perfectly is not possible but having faith in Jesus is doable. Paul points out that this is the **message** he has been **preaching**.

SALVATION COMES FROM JESUS

(9) If you confess with your mouth that Jesus is Lord and believe in your heart that God raised Him from the dead, you will be saved.

- This solution to being saved is radically different than obeying the Law of Moses. There are two steps. **Confess Jesus as Lord** and believe in His resurrection. Paul has made it clear that our baptism pictures His resurrection.

Or have you forgotten that when we were joined with Christ Jesus in baptism, we joined Him in His death? For we died and were buried with Christ by baptism. And just

as Christ was raised from the dead by the glorious power of the Father, now we also may live new lives. Since we have been united with Him in His death, we will also be raised to life as He was. (Romans 6:3-5 NLT)

The way we show that we **believe** in the resurrection is to identify with it in baptism. It is not a work (like to earn merit) but is a passive re-enactment of the death and resurrection of Jesus. It is proof to God that we believe in His resurrection.

(10) For it is by believing in your heart that you are made right with God, and it is by confessing with your mouth that you are saved.

- Restating verse 9. Being right with God is not accomplished by working ourselves in a fret by living in fear of breaking a law, but by believing and confessing. How pleasantly different. And success is guaranteed.

(11) As the Scriptures tell us, "Anyone who trusts in Him will never be disgraced."

- The point that Paul is making is in the last sentence:

**Therefore, this is what the Sovereign LORD says:
"Look! I am placing a foundation stone in Jerusalem, a firm and tested stone. It is a precious cornerstone that is safe to build on. Whoever believes need never be shaken.** (Isaiah 28:16 NLT)

Those who build their lives on keeping the law are never certain where they stand with God, while those who build their lives on the foundation of Christ are never shaken or **disgraced**. We have become family members and God wants the very best from each of us.

“CALLING” IS THE KEY FOR EVERYONE

(12) Jew and Gentile are the same in this respect. They have the same Lord, who gives generously to all who call on Him.

- Both **Jews** and **Gentiles** need salvation. **The Lord** gives generously to **all** who **call** on His Name. **Paul** could remember the instructions given to him about how to become a follower of Christ:

What are you waiting for? Get up and be baptized. Have your sins washed away by calling on the name of the Lord. (Acts 22:16 NLT)

Peter, the man who opened the kingdom for it's first citizens on Pentecost quoted the prophet Joel:

But everyone who calls on the name of the LORD will be saved. (Acts 2:21 NLT)

Then Peter told his listeners HOW to call on the name of the Lord:

Peter replied, "Each of you must repent of your sins and turn to God, and be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins. Then you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit. (Acts 2:38 NLT)

So baptism was intricately involved in **calling** on the name of the Lord. We have just read two cases.

(13) For "Everyone who calls on the name of the LORD will be saved."

- Paul quotes from Joel as a reminder that a *remnant*, not the main line of Israel, will be saved.

But everyone who calls on the name of the LORD will be saved, for some on Mount Zion in Jerusalem will escape,

just as the LORD has said. These will be among the survivors whom the LORD has called. (Joel 2:32 NLT)

The key again is for an individual to **call on the name of the Lord**. It is *faith* for salvation, not keeping the law in order to **be saved**. The option is for both Jews and Gentiles.

(14) But how can they call on Him to save them unless they believe in Him? And how can they believe in Him if they have never heard about Him? And how can they hear about Him unless someone tells them?

- Being **saved** implies **believing**. **Believing** implies **hearing** and **hearing** implies that something was spoken. The message of salvation needs to be **told**. The Jewish leaders were zealous for the law-keeping message that no one could keep. We need to be zealous with the story that will bring joy, happiness, a clear conscience, hope and eternal life with Jesus.
- This verse is at the heart of Christian missions. Every believer needs to immerse themselves in world missions. Learn about them by reading and listening. Pray every day for those on the battlefield and go visit a location that especially interests us. Set aside money for missions. Teach our children about missions.

(15) And how will anyone go and tell them without being sent? That why the Scriptures say, "How beautiful are the feet of messengers who bring good news!"

- Paul now quotes from Isaiah to make his next point:



is

How beautiful on the mountains are the feet of the messenger who brings good news, the good news of peace

**and salvation, the news
that the God of Israel
reigns!** (Isaiah 52:7 NLT)

- Paul is vindicating his preaching the gospel to the Gentiles, a policy which the unbelieving Jews considered inexcusable.
- **Albert Barnes** on the Isaiah passage:

... the idea here is, that the feet of messengers when they traveled in the dust were naturally offensive and disgusting, but that the messenger of peace and prosperity to those who had been oppressed and afflicted by the ravages of war, was so charming as to transform a most disagreeable into a pleasing object.



NOT EVERYONE CALLS

(16) But not everyone welcomes the Good News, for Isaiah the prophet said, "LORD, who has believed our message?"

- With **the Good News**, not everyone calls on the **Lord**. Paul saw something like this in Isaiah 53:1. Grouping himself with the other prophets of the time **Isaiah** speaks of the rejection by those who *should* be overjoyed. Thousands *should* have rejoiced when the birth of Jesus was announced. Thousands *should* have rejoiced before God when He began His ministry. So few did.
- It is clear that the ones called had the choice. They weren't chosen ahead of time by God.

(17) So faith comes from hearing, that is, hearing the Good News about Christ. (18) But I ask, have the people of Israel actually heard the message? Yes, they have: "The message has gone throughout the earth, and the words to all the world."

- Paul raises the question asking “Did the **people of Israel actually hear the message?**” His answer is a resounding “yes.” He cites Psalm 19:

Yet their message has gone throughout the earth, and their words to all the world. God has made a home in the heavens for the sun. (Psalms 19:4 NLT)

Paul is not saying that the message of Jesus had already gone out when the Psalm was written, but he adapts the wording to his own day and circumstances. He did that earlier in the chapter, too.

(19) But I ask, did the people of Israel really understand? Yes, they did, for even in the time of Moses, God said, "I will rouse your jealousy through people who are not even a nation. I will provoke your anger through the foolish Gentiles."

- In verse 18, Paul has answered the question about Israel **hearing** the message of Jesus. Now he answers the question about Israel **understanding**. He uses an event from Moses' time to illustrate:

They have roused My jealousy by worshiping things that are not God; they have provoked My anger with their useless idols. Now I will rouse their jealousy through people who are not even a people; I will provoke their anger through the foolish Gentiles. (Deuteronomy 32:21 NLT)

Israel knew what was right, but worshiped idols anyway, arousing **God's jealousy**. **God** has told **Israel** He would **rouse** their **jealousy** through **Gentiles**.

(20) And later Isaiah spoke boldly for God, saying, "I was found by people who were not looking for Me. I showed Myself to those who were not asking for Me." (21) But regarding Israel, God said, "All day long I opened My arms to them, but they were disobedient and rebellious.

- **Isaiah** also has a case (Isaiah 65:1-2) where **God** showed Himself to those who were not asking for him -- obviously Gentiles. Israel knew what God wanted, but they ignored His **open arms**.
- The formal rejection by the High Priest of Israel is recorded in Matthew:

But Jesus remained silent. Then the high priest said to Him, "I demand in the name of the living God -- tell us if You are the Messiah, the Son of God." Jesus replied, "You have said it. And in the future you will see the Son of Man seated in the place of power at God's right hand and coming on the clouds of heaven." Then the high priest tore his clothing to show his horror and said, "Blasphemy! Why do we need other witnesses? You have all heard His blasphemy. (Matthew 26:63-65 NLT)

MUSIC BOX		
<i>Come, let us sing to the LORD! (Psalms 95:1 NLT)</i>		
<i>Verse</i>	<i>Link:</i>	<i>Put in Browser:</i>
9	<i>Jesus Saves</i>	http://bitly.ws/qqAa