

Romans Lesson 12

1. The Problem and the Solution (10:1-8)

1.1. Paul's heartfelt desire and prayer is to see all Israel come to a saving faith in Jesus Christ

- They have zeal without knowledge
- Israel sought to establish righteousness apart from faith
- The Law ceases to be the focus of righteousness when one believes in Christ

1.2. The Law of Moses demands unfailing conformity to every detail and requirement

1.3. By contrast, faith is a simple matter of the heart

1.4. Moses has already provided instructions regarding the Law: "The man who does those things shall live by them."

- There is no grace under the Law. It requires perfect performance and obedience at all times or the one who trusts in the Law will perish by his own failures.
- Conclusion: Since perfect obedience to the Law is impossible (chapter 3), righteous can never be attained by or through a reliance on the Law.
- The gospel, instead, offers us the same exchange of imputed righteousness as Abraham was declared righteous by (faith, or believe is counted as if the unrighteous was in fact righteous in God's eyes.

1.5. Do not confuse Christ's gospel of grace with obedience to the Law or say in your heart

- "Who will ascend into heaven" to demand that Jesus present Himself face-to-face before making a confession of faith – "If He comes down, then I will believe."
- "Who will descend into the abyss?" that is to descend into the abyss to prove that Jesus has not died and remained in hell like another man (demanding physical proof of the resurrection) to "bring Christ up from the dead."
- The unbelieving Jew (or Gentile) who is not granted visible proof of Jesus in heaven rather than inhabiting the abyss, may have a false sense of safety by continuing to rely on or trusting in the Law. Pau say, do not let these thoughts remain in your heart.

1.6. The gospel of Christ does not demand that anyone search all the way into heaven, or down into the abyss to receive God's righteousness by faith.

1.7. Instead, the Word of God is already near you. In fact God Himself has placed the Word of His truth and His gospel:

- In your mouth (so you can confess Him)

- In your heart (so you can believe in Him and receive His righteousness)
2. Salvation and Faith Confirmed (10:9-10)
 - 2.1. You will be saved if (Gentiles, Israel, all):
 - You confess Jesus Christ as Lord with your mouth
 - And believe in your heart that God has raised Him from the dead
 - 2.2. For:
 - With the heart one believes and receives the righteousness of Christ
 - And with the mouth confession is made as a confirmation of salvation
 3. The Blessings of Faith (10:11-13)
 - 3.1. The one who believes will not be put to shame (Isaiah 28:16)
 - 3.2. There is no distinction between Jew and Greek
 - 3.3. The same Lord is over all and is rich to all who call upon Him for salvation
 - 3.4. Whoever calls upon the Lord shall be saved
 - What about Esau?
 - What about Pharaoh?
 - What about national Israel?
 4. Carrying the Gospel to the Lost (10:14-21)
 - 4.1. Seeking those who have not yet believed
 - Belief in Christ comes first by hearing of Christ
 - Those who proclaim Christ to those who have not heard are “preachers”
 - Preachers are sent by God on their task to share the gospel with others
 - God sent Moses to preach to Pharaoh
 - God sent Jesus to preach to the lost sheep in Israel
 - “Faith comes by hearing, and hearing by the word of God.” 10:17
 - Pharaoh heard, but hardened his heart in continued unbelief
 - Israel heard Jesus, but refused His message having not yet responded with faith (chapter 11 will help us understand when the nation will turn to Jesus by faith)
 5. Some of Israel Has Been Saved – God has not cast away His chosen people (11:1-6)
 - 5.1. Paul is from the tribe of Benjamin and he has been saved

5.2. When Elijah falsely believes that God enemies have killed all of His faithful people, the Lord responds to him

- “I have reserved for Myself seven thousand men who have not bowed down to Baal
- Even so, then, at this present time there is a remnant according to the election of grace
- And if God saves by grace, then their salvation is not accomplished by works of the Law.
- If God saved by any other way, it would no longer be of grace
- Work for God comes after faith and grace, it cannot come before

5.3. Election and Israel (11:7-10)

- Israel seeks justification by the works of the Law, and has not obtained it, for the Law makes no one righteous
- The elect of Israel who receive God’s grace by faith, however, have obtained God’s righteousness
- The rest of Israel who have rejected God’s grace have become spiritually blinded to the truth
 - God has given them a spirit of stupor (dullness, lethargy), that is they have become so insensible that God’s grace cannot move on their hearts
 - They have eyes, but cannot see the truth of God
 - They have ears and refuse to hear

5.4. David in Psalm 69:22, 23 describes the condition God afflicts His enemies with

- Their table (perceived blessings and provisions) are a snare and a trap to them
- The very things they trust in are turned into a stumbling block and payback to them for their hardened hearts
- Their own eyes deceive them thinking they see safety and kindness from God when He has turned against them for their unbelief
- Their life is ultimately defined by their “loins shaking continuously” in the sight of God. This defines their stumble, but not their ultimate fall from God’s love for them

5.5. Israel Stumbles, but Does Not Fall (11:11-15)

- Gentiles acceptance of salvation should provoke Israel to jealousy
- Israel’s rejection of Christ has resulted in great spiritual riches to be offered to the Gentile world
 - God intended it to be to the Jew first and then the Gentile

- Israel's rejection has resulted in God shifting His call to the Gentiles; Israel will hear of the gospel from them rather than the other way around
- However, if Israel's stumbling has resulted in so many riches for the Gentiles, just think about how great the riches will be when Israel finally comes to faith!
- Paul willingly puts his life at risk to provoke Israel to jealousy by preaching to Gentiles, knowing that some of Israel will be saved
- God is using Israel's failure and rejection of Him to pour out His riches to the Gentile world
- So, if God can use Israel's failure for good, just imagine how much more He could do if the whole nation turned back to Him by faith in Jesus Christ
- Israel's ultimate acceptance of Christ will give life to the dead nation and be a beacon for God the rest of the unbelieving world!

5.6. Bringing Israel Back from the Dead (11:16-24)

- The Gentile world has benefited by means of God's reconciliation because He cast Israel aside due to their lack of faith
- If Israel nationally accepts Jesus Christ by faith now, they will figuratively be brought back to life from being dead in their sins.
- God will gladly accept their faith and repentance just as He has accepted the same from the Gentiles
- Israel is like a firstfruit, a lump of dough, or the root of an olive tree to God all of whom have unfulfilled potential in God's plan. He hasn't completely abandoned Israel in their rejection of Him
- God started with good stock (Abraham, Moses) when He elected Israel as His special chosen nation. These were men worthy of God's call on their lives
- Because Israel rejected God in unbelief, He has broken off some of Israel's branches off the main root to make room for wild branches (Gentiles) to be grafted into the pure stock in His plan of salvation
- Gentiles owe a great deal of respect to Israel because God has grafted us into the foundation He established with Abraham
 - Gentiles should not boast against Israel because the root and foundation of our faith is in the blessings God first promised to Israel
 - Gentiles should observe Israel's fate with great reverence; for God will not spare Gentiles who reject him by unbelief just as He did not spare Israel

5.7. God is both Good and Severe

- Never doubt that God is good; His severe or harsh judgments are in response to people's lack of faith; if you continue in faith (goodness), He will be immeasurably good to you
- If you turn from Him through unbelief, He will cut you off for your own good and in hope of restoration to Himself (our unbelief is not His fault)
- National Israel will likewise be grafted back in to the root of God's salvation if they respond in to Him by faith in Jesus Christ

5.8. God's Wisdom Regarding Israel (11:25-27)

- Don't rely on your own "wisdom" or remain in ignorance about the mysteries God has revealed
- Israel is blinded in part (not all are blinded to the truth about Jesus and faith, but most are)
- National Israel will remain blinded until the full count of Gentiles comes to faith (God has a plan and timing for the church age)
- When their blindness is removed, National Israel will have an unprecedented opportunity to return to a life of faith and be saved in the same manner as Gentiles

5.9. Gospel vs. Election (11:28-32)

- Israel is currently an enemy of the Gospel
- However, Israel is still the elect of God because of the promises He made to their fathers Abraham, Isaac & Jacob
 - For the gifts and calling of God are irrevocable
 - God has shown mercy to the disobedient Gentiles and He will again show mercy to the disobedient Jews

5.10. What Else Can Paul Conclude? (11:33-36)

Oh, the depth of the riches both of the wisdom and knowledge of God! How unsearchable are His judgments and His ways past finding out!

"For who has known the mind of the Lord?

Or who has become His counselor?"

"Or who has first given to Him

And it shall be repaid to him?"

For of Him and through Him and to Him are all things, to whom be glory forever. Amen.