

Romans 10

1. How can you tell when someone is being sincere?

To many of the Jews, it may appear as if Paul is attaching everything they hold dear, which would make it easy to misinterpret Paul's motives. Therefore, what assurance does Paul give them?

How do we know Paul is sincere?

Do you believe it is possible for an entire city or people to be saved? How do you react when someone says that all of Coalgate will be saved?

Why do you think Paul makes this statement at this time?

2. What does it mean to have zeal?

About what are you zealous?

What does it mean to you that the Jews were zealous for God?

Can people say that about you?

Read Isaiah 9:7 and John 2:16-17. What can these verses teach us about zeal?

However, what does Paul say about the Jews' zeal for God?

If their zeal was not based upon knowledge, upon what was it based?

Paul knows a great deal about zeal without knowledge. How?

Can you think of any current examples where people's zeal for someone or something is not based upon knowledge?

What is the result of zeal that is not based upon knowledge?

3. In verse 3, what reason does Paul give for their "zeal that is not based on knowledge?"

What is the knowledge upon which we should base our zeal for the Lord?

The Jews ignorance of God's righteousness and salvation led to their present condition. Is ignorance of God's ways a good excuse? Please explain.

Look at Acts 17:30, Eph. 4:18, and 1 Timothy 1:13. What do these verses tell us about ignorance?

What is the result when people try to establish their own righteousness?

Are people still trying to do this today?

4. In verse 4 what does Paul mean when he says that Christ is the end (the completion, the fulfillment) of the law?

What, then, was the purpose of the law?

According to Paul, what did Moses say about righteousness that is by the law?

What does Moses' statement mean to you? How does it relate to Paul's previous statement that Christ is the end of the law?

5. According to verses 6 & 7, what does righteousness by faith say?

What does it mean to you to bring Christ down? (Look at Deut. 30:12.)

What are some ways that people try to bring Jesus down?

Why do you think some think that it is difficult to understand the Bible?

Paul answers that concern in verse 8. What does he say?

In what way is the word always near us?

6. Next come some of the most quoted verses. What does it mean to be saved?

In this process, why is important for us to speak what we believe?

Why is it important for us to believe in our hearts?

How did you feel when you learned that being saved was so "easy"?

7. Paul continues to state the benefits of accepting Jesus as our Savior. What does he say in verse 11?

What does it mean to trust in someone?

Paul then returns to one of his major themes. What does he say in verses 12-13?

Does this mean the Jews are not important? Please explain.

8. In verse 13 Paul is quoting from the book of Joel. Read Joel 2:28-32. What do these verses mean to you?

Paul quotes v. 32. Joel speaks of a time yet to come. Paul speaks of a time that has come. What does it mean to you to see a prophecy fulfilled?

Does verse 13 still hold true for us today?

9. Paul now asks a series of questions. He begins with Joel's statement that everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved. What is Paul's first question?

What is his second question?

Third? Fourth?

How would you answer these questions?

Why do you think Paul ends this section with the statement, "How beautiful are the feet of those who bring the good news"?

For the full context of this statement, look at Isaiah 52:5-7. What do these scriptures mean to you?

Who are the ones who bring the good news and peace?

10. What statement does Paul make in verse 16?

Does that statement apply to *Gentiles* as well? To our generation?

Why would the Jews (or anybody) not accept the good news?

Paul once again quotes Isaiah. What does Isaiah 53:1 say?

What does that prophetic message from Isaiah mean for the Jews and for us?

Some versions read that few have accepted the good news, yet Paul continues to proclaim the good news. How do you think he keeps from becoming discouraged?

What is the message for us?

11. State verse 17 in your own words.

This verse states a truth that we cannot escape. According to this verse, what is our responsibility?

Some would argue that if they do not hear the word, then they cannot be saved. Therefore, if they don't hear, they cannot be held accountable. Paul responds to this reasoning with a rhetorical question. What is that question in verse 18?

Paul refers to Psalm 19:4. Read Psalm 19:1-4. How do these verses "answer" the premise that people have not heard the good news?

12. Do you think it is important for us to study the Old Testament? Please explain.

The Jews argued that they should be held accountable because the good news could not be found in the Old Testament. In other words, the good news the Gentiles had heard was a new gospel; therefore, the Jews should not be held accountable. How does Paul address this argument?

God is speaking in verse 19. To whom is God speaking?

Who are the people who are not a nation?

What does God say to the Jews?

How is God going to make them angry?

Have you ever witnessed or felt the anger of some believers who were offended by the actions of new believers?

13. What else does God say through Isaiah in verse 20 (Isaiah 65:1)? About whom is God speaking?

What does God say about Israel in verse 21 (Isaiah 65:2)?

What does it mean to you that God held out His hands all day long?

For whom did He do this?

Why would or does God hold out His hands to those who are disobedient?

14. Paul uses the ancient texts in his present discussion with the Jews. Why is it important for us to know AND understand the Old Testament?

How can understanding these prophecies from Isaiah help us understand our present times?