

Romans 10:1-21 **Israel stumbled over the Law – Righteousness by Faith**

Paul's zeal, acknowledgment, and desire for the Salvation of Israel

¹ Brethren, my heart's desire and prayer to God for Israel 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 they being ignorant of God's righteousness, and seeking to establish their own righteousness, have not submitted to the righteousness of God. ⁴ For Christ is the end of the law for righteousness to everyone who believes.

Righteousness of the Law / Righteousness by Faith

⁵ For Moses writes about the righteousness which is of the law, "The man who does those things shall live by them."

⁶ But the righteousness of faith speaks in this way, "Do not say in your heart, 'Who will ascend into heaven?' " (that is, to bring Christ down from above) ⁷ or, " 'Who will descend into the abyss?' " (that is, to bring Christ up from the dead). ⁸ But what does it say? "The word is near you, in your mouth and in your heart" (that is, the word of faith which we preach): ⁹ that if you confess with your mouth the Lord Jesus and believe in your heart that God has raised Him from the dead, you will be saved. ¹⁰ For with the heart one believes unto righteousness, and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation.

No distinction between Jew and Gentile who believe

¹¹ For the Scripture says, "Whoever believes on Him will not be put to shame." ¹² For there is no distinction between Jew and Greek, for the same Lord over all is rich to all who call upon Him. ¹³ For "whoever calls on the name of the LORD shall be saved."

¹⁴ How then shall they call on Him in whom they have not believed? And how shall they believe in Him of whom they have not heard? And how shall they hear without a preacher? ¹⁵ And how shall they preach unless they are sent? As it is written:

"How beautiful are the feet of those who preach the gospel of peace, Who bring glad tidings of good things!"

¹⁶ But they have not all obeyed the gospel. For Isaiah says, "Lord, who has believed our report?" ¹⁷ So then faith comes by hearing, and hearing by the word of God.

¹⁸ But I say, have they not heard? Yes indeed: "Their sound has gone out to all the earth, And their words to the ends of the world."

¹⁹ But I say, did Israel not know? First Moses says:

"I will provoke you to jealousy by those who are not a nation, I will move you to anger by a foolish nation."

²⁰ But Isaiah is very bold and says:

"I was found by those who did not seek Me; I was made manifest to those who did not ask for Me."

²¹ But to Israel he says:

"All day long I have stretched out My hands To a disobedient and contrary people."

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Facts Revealed:

Paul's zeal, acknowledgment, and desire for the Salvation of Israel

- ✚ Paul's desire and prayer is for the Salvation of Israel. [Romans 10:1]
- ✚ Paul knows full well from personal experience that the Jews have a great Zeal for God, though seriously misguided.
 - ✧ Paul was a Pharisee and the son of a Pharisee. [Acts 23:6, 26:4-5, Philippians 3:4-6]
 - ✧ The Pharisees plotted to kill Jesus from early in His ministry. [Matthew 12:14, 21:45-46, 22:15, Mark 3:6, 7:5, 12:13, Luke 5:20-21, 6:1-7, 11:53-54, John 7:32, 45-49, 11:45-57, 12:42, 18:1-3]
 - ✧ In his zeal for God as a Pharisee, Saul (Paul) immersed himself in his efforts to stamp out the Church of Jesus Christ with the full support of the Chief Priests and Jewish council. [Acts 7:57-59, 8:1-3, 9:1-2]
 - ✧ All the persecution against Paul originated from Jewish leadership standing on Jewish tradition which was contrary to the Word of God, and still he continued to preach to them first.
 - ✧ It was that very Jewish tradition that Jesus condemned as making the Word of God ineffective. [Matthew 15:1-8, Mark 7:1-13]
 - ✧ Paul could therefore clearly say, "I bear them witness that they have a zeal for God, but not according to knowledge." [Romans 10:2]
 - ✧ The problem of the Jews was that their Zeal was founded on Jewish traditions without knowledge of God's mind of imputing righteousness on the basis of faith, they attempted to earn righteousness by adhering tenaciously to the false traditions handed down generation after generation by Jews with their "Oral Laws" which they held at the same level of authority as the written laws God gave through Moses. [Romans 10:2-3]
 - ✧ The Jews, seeking to establish their own righteousness, failed to avail themselves of the righteousness of God offered freely through Jesus Christ to everyone who believes. [Romans 10:4]

Righteousness of the Law / Righteousness by Faith [Romans 10:5-10]

- ✚ According to Moses, the Law is righteous, and the man who does everything according to the Law shall live by them. [Leviticus 18:5, Deuteronomy 4:1, 12:1, 30:15-16, Nehemiah 9:29, Ezekiel chapters 18 and 33]
- ✚ Righteousness by faith says; that if you confess with your mouth the Lord Jesus, and believe in your heart that God has raised Him from the dead, you will be saved. For with the heart one believes unto righteousness, and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation.
 - ✧ Righteousness is imputed on the basis of Faith. [Genesis 15:5-6, Romans 4:1-8]

No distinction between Jew and Gentile who believe [Romans 10:11-21]

- ✚ The Law demonstrated that both Jews and Gentiles are guilty of sin, therefore they are both equally lost sinners.
 - ✧ God therefore, makes no distinction between Jew and Greek, because they both have the same need of mercy and Salvation.
 - ✧ God has made an equal way for all to be saved by saying, "Whoever believes on Him will not be put to shame." [Romans 10:11]
 - ✧ And the same Lord over all is rich to all who call upon Him. "Whoever calls upon the Lord shall be saved." [2 Samuel 22:4, Psalm 18:3, 55:16, Joel 2:32, Acts 2:21, Romans 10:12-13]
- ✚ This brings us to the great need to evangelize the world around us, Paul asked the questions:
 - ✧ How can anyone call on the Lord if they have not believed the Gospel?
 - ✧ How can anyone believe on Jesus if they have not heard the Gospel?
 - ✧ How can anyone hear the Gospel without someone to teach them?

- ✧ How can anyone teach the Gospel unless they are sent? As it is written:
 "How beautiful are the feet of those who preach the gospel of peace, Who bring glad tidings of good things!" [\[Romans 10:15, Isaiah 52:7\]](#)

- ✧ Being a learned Pharisee in the Jewish Scriptures, Paul brings Scriptures into his discussion.
 - ✧ The problem goes back in history.
 - ✧ Though the message of Salvation has been given to Israel from the time of Moses, yet they did not obey the message.
 - ✧ Concerning the Jews, Paul acknowledged that **not all of Israel has obeyed the Gospel.** [\[Romans 10:16\]](#)
 - ✧ Paul offers the words from Isaiah as comparison to the rejection of the Gospel by the Jews, "Lord, who has believed our report?" [\[Isaiah 53:1\]](#)
 - ✧ Certainly some of the Jews did obey the Gospel message as evidenced by the multitude of Jews who made up the church in Jerusalem in the book of Acts, and Jews outside of Jerusalem.
 - ✧ The Lord added to the Church daily those who were being saved. [\[Acts 2:47\]](#)
 - ✧ 5,000 men. [\[Acts 4:4\]](#)
 - ✧ Multitudes of men and women. [\[Acts 5:14\]](#)
 - ✧ Many in Joppa. [\[Acts 9:42\]](#)
 - ✧ Great number in Antioch of Syria. [\[Acts 11:19-22\]](#)
 - ✧ Great multitude of Jews and Greeks. [\[Acts 14:1\]](#)
 - ✧ Pharisees believed. [\[Acts 15:5\]](#)
 - ✧ Many Jews believed in Berea. [\[Acts 17:12\]](#)
 - ✧ Crispus the ruler of the synagogue at Corinth believed. [\[Acts 18:1-8\]](#)
 - ✧ Myriads of Jews in Jerusalem. [\[Acts 21:15-20\]](#)
 - ✧ Yet Paul could honestly say that **not all of Israel has obeyed the Gospel,** for he had encountered so many who did not believe but persecuted him for the sake of the Gospel.
 - ✧ Still the conclusion that "Faith comes by hearing, and hearing by the Word of God." [\[Romans 10:17\]](#)

- ✧ Paul then asked, "Have they not heard?"
 - ✧ The answer is a resounding "Yes indeed, their sound has gone out to all the earth, and their words to the ends of the world." [\[Romans 10:18\]](#)

- ✧ Paul asked, "But I say, did Israel not know?" Then he brings in Scriptures to illustrate his point:
 - ✧ Moses said, "I will provoke you to jealousy by those who are not a nation, I will move you to anger by a foolish nation." [\[Romans 10:19, Deuteronomy 32:21\]](#)
 - ✧ Isaiah was bold and says: "I was found by those who did not seek Me; I was made manifest to those who did not ask for Me." [\[Romans 10:20, Isaiah 65:1\]](#)
 - ✧ God spoke through Isaiah, saying, "All day long I have stretched out My hands To a disobedient and contrary people." [\[Romans 10:21, Isaiah 65:2\]](#)
 - ✧ So Israel's choice was not out of ignorance of not hearing, but rather out of rebellious rejection of the Gospel message.

- ✧ This brings us today to the realization that God is entirely just in saving those who believe, and leaving the nonbelievers for Judgment and Wrath.
 - ✧ And the same Lord over all is rich to all who call upon Him. "Whoever calls upon the Lord shall be saved." [\[2 Samuel 22:4, Psalm 18:3, 55:16, Joel 2:32, Acts 2:21, Romans 10:12-13\]](#)
 - ✧ The choice is ours to make, and the consequences are revealed in Scripture.
 - ✧ There is a Kingdom of God to gain, or a Lake of Fire to avoid.

✧ Choose wisely.