

Right in God's Sight

Studies from the Book of Romans

Lesson 14

Romans 10:1–21

Romans 10:1–13

Israel Needs the Gospel

Paul had expressed the reality of Israel's stumbling in chapter 9; they rejected Christ instead of responding to Him by faith. Now here in chapter 10, he will explain the reason for that stumbling.

Read all of Romans 10, focusing your attention on verses 1–3.

Paul addresses the reader in verse 1 as *brethren* or *brothers*, including both Jews and Gentiles.

1. What is Paul's desire and prayer? v. 1

2. What could Paul testify to regarding the Jews? vv. 2–3
 - a. The Jews were certainly zealous for God through their practice of the law, but what were they lacking?

 - b. What were they ignorant about?

 - c. What were they attempting to do on their own?

The Jews did not lack zeal; they lacked knowledge (not intellectual *head* knowledge—*gnosis*, but *full* knowledge—*epignosis*). They were straining to apply all of the law and in doing so, their zeal became misguided. They stumbled over their Messiah by their efforts to gain righteousness on the basis of their works and missed God's way of salvation.

Look Closer:

Paul's statement "*I bear them witness*" was based on personal experience. He shared the same zeal of his fellow Jews when Christ confronted him on the Damascus road. Take a moment to examine Acts 9:1–2; 22:3–5; 26:4–11, noting the extent of Paul's zeal for God and where it led him. Please share your findings.

- ❖ Personal: Now that you have an understanding of Paul's state of mind before encountering Christ, read Philippians 3:7–11 to realize how much he changed once he submitted to Christ. What have *you* counted as loss—*rubbish*—for the sake of gaining Christ?

Selah . . .

Paul early on had devoted his life to God without fully realizing who God is and what He wanted from Paul. He didn't know he was spiritually blind, and when the "scales" fell from his eyes (Acts 9:18), he could see both physically *and* spiritually!

- ❖ Paul realized that at the heart of the matter is the matter of the heart. Think about it: how much self-effort have *you* put into your walk with God in order to please Him? How much faith have you put into religious traditions? Where has it led you? How is it different for you today? Please share your thoughts.

Once Paul submitted his life to Christ, his eyes were opened to the truth and he would never be the same! In turn, he longed for all his Jewish brethren to come to a saving knowledge of Jesus Christ. This same zeal for the truth and those who are lost should be the heart burden of every true follower of Christ. Is it yours?

Memory Verse:

"Yet indeed I also count all things loss for the excellence of the knowledge of Christ Jesus my Lord, for whom I have suffered the loss of all things, and count them as rubbish, that I may gain Christ and be found in Him, not having my own righteousness, which is from the law, but that which is through faith in Christ, the righteousness which is from God by faith." Philippians 3:8–9

Word Wealth:

Using the resources you have on hand (i.e., additional Bible translations, dictionary, Bible dictionary, concordance, etc.), write a definition for the words below.

zeal (10:2) _____

confess (10:9) _____

manifest (10:20) _____

Romans 10:4–13

God’s Gracious Offer

Israel’s misunderstanding of God’s law was grounded in their belief that righteousness came from them and not from God, which is why they continued to seek their own righteousness rather than submitting to the righteousness God offers through faith in Christ. Paul states that Christ is the *end of the law*—not the termination but rather the fulfillment of it (Matthew 5:17–18). Because Christ kept the law perfectly by living a sinless life and then gave His life as the penalty for sinners who broke the law, His righteousness makes it possible for everyone who believes in Him to attain a right standing with God.

Read Romans 10:4–13.

Paul now expounds at length on the necessity of righteousness through faith instead of by the law. He quotes Moses’ words in Leviticus 18:5 to say that *the law’s way of making a person right with God requires obedience to all of its commands*, meaning literally that *the person who does them will live by them*. In other words, there is no room for error; there must be perfect adherence to the law. It is an expression of hopelessness.

On the other hand, Paul quotes in verses 6–8 from Deuteronomy 30, where Moses charged Israel with a choice: be blessed by faith and obedience, or cursed because of rebellion and disobedience. Since the people of Moses’ day had the message, they did not need to ask that it be brought down from heaven or that someone descend into the deep. They didn’t need to go anywhere in search of God; instead, *“the word was near them.”* (Note: The words inserted in parentheses represent Paul’s interpretation of these verses as they apply to Christ. He makes the point that it is easy to follow Christ in contrast to the impossibility of following the law.)

God's message is just as near to those reading Paul's letter as it was to the people of Moses' day or people today.

1. What is that word according to Paul? v. 8

2. In contrast to what the law demands, what does Paul say faith requires? v. 9
 - a. To reiterate the facts stated in verse 9, where does faith first begin?

 - b. What must follow the heart?

We must not separate act of believing and confessing; they are inextricably linked—together they equal conversion.

3. Personal: If you are not yet a Christian or have never been assured of your salvation, look closer at the words in the text before you—*your salvation is right in front of you! It is as close as your heart and your mouth.* It's a simple process: if you believe in your heart that Jesus Christ died for your sins and that God raised Him from the dead, and you confess Him as your Lord and Savior—you will be saved! If your heart truly believes, you will make that confession today. If you do, tell someone about it.

4. What promise or truth do you see in the following verses?
 - a. v. 11:

 - b. v. 12:

 - c. v. 13:

There is no distinction with God: all are sinners, therefore all can be saved! God is not finished dealing with Israel, but His plan has been enlarged to include everyone who calls on the name of the Lord.

For Group Discussion:

What are some of the ways God has shown *you* His richness? (v.12)

Romans 10:14–21

Israel Rejects the Gospel

Read Romans 10:14–21.

Paul has emphasized that there is nothing difficult we must do to be saved. We have only to “call” on the Lord to initiate the process. Paul will now address the questions that would naturally be raised in the minds of his readers, each based on the previous one.

1. What action is necessary before salvation can take place? v. 14

The word in the Greek for *preach* means to *be a herald* or to *announce*, and is not limited to preaching from the pulpit. Sharing God’s gracious offer of salvation involves every Christian! We are to go out and share God’s message of salvation in our homes, neighborhood, wherever God has placed us.

2. Paul quotes Isaiah 52:7 in speaking about those who evangelize. What does this verse say about the messenger as well and the message?
3. Do all who hear the message believe it? vv. 16–18
 - a. How does faith come about?
 - b. In case some may not have had the opportunity to hear, what does Paul say?
4. With Paul’s last question in verse 19, he again quotes from the Old Testament. What do the following verses reveal?
 - a. Deuteronomy 32:21
 - b. Isaiah 65:1
 - c. Isaiah 65:2

God has not withheld His salvation from the Jews—*He has held out His hands to them*—but their refusal to receive their Messiah opened the door for everyone to call upon Jesus as their Savior and Lord whether they are Jew or Gentile! Today God remains faithful to His promise and still holds out His hands to all who would receive Him.

“I was sought by those who did not ask for Me; I was found by those who did not seek Me. I said, ‘Here I am, here I am,’ to a nation that was not called by My name.” Isaiah 65:1

My Romans Road

Listen . . . Learn . . . Live . . . God's Truth!

Take a look back at this week's lesson. Briefly recap what you learned this week and how you intend to live it out.

1. What lesson in your study became real to you this week?

2. How do you intend to apply this lesson to your daily life?

Memory Verse:

Write down what you learned about God from this week's memory verse.

Write out the verse from memory.

Prayer Request:

Write out your most earnest prayer request and lift it to the Lord.
