

Bible Study of Romans
Romans 9:30-10:21 (1)

This portion of Romans we are studying deals with the rejection of the Jews and the inclusion of the Gentiles as the people of God. God's apparent abandonment of His people Israel caused doubts about His promises in the Gospel. For if God broke His promises to the Jews, how can we be sure He will keep them to the Gentiles. Paul has been teaching in these chapters that what has happened with the Jews was according to the Old Testament revelation. In other words, what is happening with the Jews is the fulfillment of God's Word. So there is no ground to doubt His promises.

In Romans 9:1-29 Paul taught that the ultimate reason for Israel's rejection and the salvation of the Gentiles is God's sovereign election. His eternal and sovereign decree stands above all events. In Romans 9:30—10:21 the apostle points out that the immediate cause of Israel's rejection is their unbelief. This rejection of His Gospel was also already predicted in the Old Testament.

So we don't forget, the ultimate reason that Paul is dealing with this subject of Israel is to strengthen the assurance of the Lord's people today in every promise of the Gospel. "For all the promises of God in Him are yea, and in Him Amen, unto the glory of God by us." (2 Cor. 1:20)

Vs. 30-31

1. "What shall we say then?" is Paul's way of drawing the previous matters into a conclusion. What is the conclusion he stated about the Gentiles in this verse?

Steele and Thomas commented, *In 1:18-32, Paul described the terrible condition of the Gentile world and explains why they had been abandoned by God and left without any supernatural revelation of His person or of the way of life. They had suppressed the truth about God and turned to idols and served the creature rather than the Creator: therefore, God had given them of all kinds of evil. Only what could be known about God through nature was available to them and this knowledge, though it left them without excuse for their idolatry of the creature, was not sufficient to bring them to salvation. Left to themselves they had not pursued righteousness! But now the situation had changed; God was turning to them in mercy and calling (effectually drawing) them unto Himself (9:24-26) and revealing unto them the gift of righteousness which is received through faith in His Son (9:30).*

2. What did Paul conclude about the Jewish people?

3. What is meant with the 'law of righteousness?'

Haldane concluded, *How different is what Paul teaches in these two verses than the ways of men! How does the proud heart of the self-righteous legalist revolt at such a view of the Divine conduct! Man's wisdom cannot endure that God should in this sovereign way bestow His favors. But this is God's way and whosoever will not submit to it, resists the will of God. Nay, whoever finds fault with it, attempts to dethrone the Almighty, and to un-deify God. The whole plan of salvation is so ordered, 'that no flesh should glory in His presence, but that, according as it is written, he that glorieth, let Him glory in the Lord.' (1 Cor. 1:31)*

The next verses are stating the main reasons why the Jews failed to enter into the glory and comfort of the Kingdom of God as brought unto them in the Gospel. This passage of Scripture speaks volumes why so many among us also remain outside the Gospel comfort. So let's study this portion with personal focus to see why many fail to attain to the righteous standing, and the assurance of this, before God. The simplicity of the Gospel as set out in this passage is one the richest portions of all of Romans!

The three main reasons the Jews in general failed to obtain righteousness are

- (1) 9:32a: *they sought in the way of works, the legal way*
- (2) 9:32b: *they stumbled over Christ (as was predicted, vs. 33)*
- (3) 10:1-4: *they were ignorant of the Gospel way of salvation*

Vs. 32

4. Was is wrong with the Jew's way of seeking to attain to a state of righteousness in God's sight?

5. What was the false assumption that operates in the mindset of such Jews?

6. So what can we learn from this example of the Jews?

7. What is the second reason and the actual root of Israel's failure to attain to righteousness?

Vs. 33

8. This verse clearly states that God's provision of grace and security to Israel was a stumbling block and a rock of offence. How does grace become a stumbling block to sinners?

9. What does 'whosoever believeth on Him' mean? Let's describe this as plain as possible.

10. What does 'shall not be ashamed' mean?

Hodge concluded, "The whole spirit, opinions, and expectations of the Jews were adverse to the person, character and doctrines of the Redeemer. He was, therefore, to them a stumblingblock, as he was to others foolishness. They could not recognize Him as their fondly anticipated Messiah, nor consent to enter the kingdom of heaven on the terms which He prescribed. In them, therefore, were fulfilled the ancient prophecies, which spoke of their rejection of Christ, and consequent removal from the people of God."

11. What have you personally learned from this passage?