

ISRAEL AND GOD'S RIGHTEOUSNESS

Romans 10:1-4

INTRODUCTION:

- A. The Gentiles had God's righteousness - 9:30
 - 1) They did not seek it (*by law*)
 - 2) They did attain it by faith

- B. The Jews did not have it - 9:31-32
 - 1) They sought it by law keeping
 - 2) They did not seek it by faith

- C. The Jews could not get to God and have His righteousness because they stumbled at the person of Jesus Christ-9:33
 - 1) He was a "*stumbling stone*"
 - 2) He was a "*rock of offence*"

- I. Israel As A Nation Was Lost - verse 1
 - A. "*Brethren, my hearts desire and prayer to God for Israel is*"
 - 1) "*desire*" = ευδοκία = "a being well-pleascd", "delight in anything", "to be pleased"
 - 2) "*prayer*" = δεησις = "want", "need", hence, "the expression of need", "urgent request"
 - 3) "*Brothers, my heart's good will goes out to them, and my urgent request to God is...*"

 - B. "*...that they might be saved*"
 - 1) Paul did not believe it to be too late
 - 2) "*saved*" = σωτηρια = "safety", "deliverance", "preservation from danger or destruction"
 - 3) This was not to merely join a church or to become religious. He was not looking for status.

II. Their Zeal For God Would Not Save Them

A. *"For I bear them record that they have a zeal of God..."*

- 1) "bear record" = μαρτυρω = "to bear witness", "to attest to anything that one knows"
- 2) "zeal" = ζηλος = "zeal", from ζω, "to boil"
- 3) They were, "boiling hot for God", the very thing that Pastor's admire and for which they are most often admired
- 4) This was "of God", the law of God, the work of God, the house of God.

B. *"but not according to knowledge"*

- 1) "but they are not guided by proper knowledge"
- 2) "knowledge" = επιγνωσις = "upon" + "knowledge" = "clear and exact knowledge", "a knowledge that has a powerful influence on the knower"
- 3) *Matthew 7:21-27*
- 4) *Amos 5:21-24*

III. Submission, The Requisite To God's Righteousness

A. *"For they being ignorant of God's righteousness"*

- 1) "ignorant" = αγνοω = "not to perceive or know", "not to understand or comprehend" - *Matthew 13:13-15*
- 2) "They did not recognize God's way of justification" - KNOX

B. *"and going about to establish their own righteousness"*

- 1) "going about" = ζητω = "to seek for", "search out"
- 2) "establish" = ιστημι = "to cause to stand", "to place", "to set"
- 3) Seeking God's righteousness they established their own, and became self-righteous.

C. *"have not submitted themselves unto the righteousness of God"*

- 1) "submitted" = υπεκυω = "to cease fighting", "to give way under", "yield"

- 2) "They refused to accept with submission" TENT
- 3) Knowledge about God does not save. Knowledge that is true leads us to submit to God, this saves. It is submission, not knowledge, not zeal!

IV. God's Righteousness Is In Christ

A. "For Christ is the end of the law for righteousness..."

- 1) "end" = τέλος = "the fulfillment or the completion of anything" It denotes strictly, not the ending of a departed state, but the arrival of a complete fulfillment and termination.

B. "...to every one that believeth"

- 1) "believeth" = πιστεῦω = "to rely upon", "to be persuaded", "to trust"
- 2) "to every believer"

V. "Different Paths, All Ending At The Same Place"

A. Religion page of our city paper, Arkansas Democrat, July 14, 1989.

- 1) Waves of veiled women and men in white seamless robes, signifying equality before Allah, took part in the prayers televised live by satellite to scores of Islamic countries.
- 2) As twilight descended around Mecca, the army of pilgrims prayed before they slit the throats of more than 1 million sheep, cows and camels for Eid al-Adha, or the Feast of Sacrifice.

B. The Israelites of Amos' day

