

JEW AND GENTILE, THE CONCLUSION  
Romans 9:30-33

INTRODUCTION:

- A. God has called men to service vs. 24
  - 1) "not of the Jews only"
  - 2) "but also of the Gentiles"
- B. This was prophesied vs. 25
  - 1) Hosea, "ye are not my people"
  - 2) "...beloved which was not beloved"
- C. Not all Jews would be, "of faith"
  - 1) Isaiah - "a remnant shall be saved"
  - 2) "vessels of mercy"
- D. What is the conclusion that we must draw? vs. 30a
  - 1) "what shall we say then?"
  - 2) "then what do we conclude?"
- I. The Gentiles and Righteousness vs. 30
  - A. "That the Gentiles, which followed not after righteousness"
    - 1) "followed not" = dioko = "to cause to flee", hence, "to pursue after, to pursue to overtake"
    - 2) "righteousness" = dikaiosune = "all that God expects us to be", "judicial deliverance"
    - 3) The Gentiles never had the law of Moses to point and guide them to righteousness"
  - B. "have attained to righteousness"
    - 1) "attained" = katalambano = "to seize upon"
    - 2) "have grasped it" Wey.
  - C. "even the righteousness which is of faith"
    - 1) "faith" = pistis = "firm persuasion", "the conviction which is based upon hearing, not upon sight or upon personal knowledge because of contact"
    - 2) "A righteousness which is produced by faith"
- II. Israel and Righteousness vs. 31
  - A. "But Israel, which followed after the law of righteousness, hath not attained to the law of righteousness" vs. 31
    - 1) "followed after" = dioko = "to follow after earnestly"
    - 2) "attained" = ephthano = "to come or do before another", "to overtake", "outstrip", "to come first"
    - 3) "But Israel, on the other hand, though seeking justification by law, failed to reach the goal of righteousness"
    - 4) The law is not a regulator one's life, it is a teacher. Galatians 3:24



- B. "wherefore? Because they sought it not by faith, but as it were by the works of the law" vs. 32
- 1) Why did they fail?
  - 2) "not by faith" = faith is the way
  - 3) "works" = ergon = "that which is brought into being or accomplished by labor"
  - 4) "why was this? Because they did not pursue it by faith, but thought to gain it by works"
  - 5) Doing works to become righteous in God's sight is a foolish act that will never be rewarded, though a person use the noblest of all ways, the Law of Moses.
  - 6) The key to righteousness Romans 10:3
  - 7) "Right with God" is not an ethical or moral accomplishment it is bestowed when we have faith.

III. The Stumbling Stone vs. 32b, 33

- A. "For they stumbled at that stumblingstone;"
- 1) "stumbled" = proskopto = "to strike the foot against anything"
  - 2) "stumblingstone" = lithos = "stone" = proskommatos = "of stumbling"
  - 3) "That stone that makes people stumble" Gspd.
- B. "As it is written, Behold, I lay in Zion a stumblingstone and rock of offence:"
- 1) "stumblingstone" = (see III, A, 2, above)
  - 2) "rock" = petra = "a projecting rock", "a cliff", hence, "a large rock"
  - 3) "offence" = skandalon = "a trap-stick" i.e., "a crooked stick on which bait is fastened, which when being struck by the, springs the trap", "anything which one strikes or stumbles against"
  - 4) "Zion" = "the hill of eminence in Jerusalem, the place where the palace of David was built. The capitol of God's people and the place of glory"
  - 5) The offensive rock was laid in Zion not in the wicked cities. Not an idol or altar of idol worship!
  - 6) "lay" = tithemi = "to set", "to place"
  - 7) Isaiah 8:14, Isaiah 53:1- , I Corinthians 1:23
  - 8) The way to be declared, "right with God", was to follow God's instruction. The instructions pointed the person to Christ. Many Jews worshipped the instructions. They stumbled over Christ as they read about Him.
  - 9) Matthew 21:42-43, Romans 11:11
- C. "and whosoever believeth on him shall not be ashamed"
- 1) "whosoever" = hos = "who" + pas = "all"
  - 2) "believeth" = pisteuo + epi = "to be persuaded", "to rely upon", "to trust" + "upon, implying repose, rest and reliance"

- 3) "him" = "Jesus Christ"
  - 4) "ashamed" = kataischuno = "to disgrace", "to dishonour", "to feel shame before another"
  - 5) Isaiah 28:16 - "Therefore thus saith the Lord God, Behold, I lay in Zion for a foundation a stone, a tried stone, a precious cornerstone, a sure foundation; he that believeth shall not make haste"
  - 6) "haste" = "to be afraid", "to flee because of fear" The person who trusts the Messiah will never flee in haste for fear of being deserted by God's provision.
  - 7) Ezra 8:21-23
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- 21 Then I proclaimed a fast there, at the river of Ahava, that we might afflict ourselves before our God, to seek of him a right way for us, and for our little ones, and for all our substance.
  - 22 For I was ashamed to require of the king a band of soldiers and horsemen to help us against the enemy in the way: because we had spoken unto the king, saying, The hand of our God is upon all them for good that seek him; but his power and his wrath is against all them that forsake him.
  - 23 So we fasted and besought our God for this: and he was intreated of us.
- 8) Was Ezra put to shame?
- 31 Then we departed from the river of Ahava on the twelfth day of the first month, to go unto Jerusalem: and the hand of our God was upon us, and he delivered us from the hand of the enemy, and of such as lay in wait by the way.
  - 32 And we came to Jerusalem, and abode there three days.