

# God's Good News about Righteousness

## An Inductive Study of the Book of Romans

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### **Study 18, Israel's Failure to Attain the Righteousness of God. (Romans 9:30-10:21)**

- A. INTRODUCTION: The Writer, the Readers, and the Good News (Romans 1:1-17). Study 1.
- B. CONDEMNATION: The Unveiling of God's Wrath against Man's Unrighteousness (Romans 1:18 – 3:20). (Studies 2-5).
- C. JUSTIFICATION: The Declaration of Righteousness through Faith (Romans 3:21 – 5:21). (Studies 6-10).
- D. SANCTIFICATION: The Outworking of Righteousness in the Believer's Experience (Romans 6-8). (Studies 11-16).
- E. **VINDICATION: The Vindication of God's Righteousness in Setting Aside National Israel in Order to Save the Nations (Romans 9-11). (Studies 17-19).**
  - 1. God's Righteousness in Election. 9:1-29. (Study 17)
  - 2. **Israel's Culpability in Failing to Attain the Righteousness of God. 9:30 – 10:21. (Study 18)**
    - a. **Israel's failure to attain righteousness: The Transitional Summary. 9:30-33**
      - 1) Paul concluded something about both Gentiles and Jews. First, about Gentiles: (9:30)
        - a) What were Gentiles not pursuing? \_\_\_\_\_
        - b) What did Gentiles attain anyway? \_\_\_\_\_
        - c) What kind of righteousness? Righteousness which is given by God to someone because of his \_\_\_\_\_.
      - 2) Now Paul concluded something about Israel: (9:31-33)
        - a) What was Israel pursuing? A \_\_\_\_\_ of \_\_\_\_\_ (9:31).
        - b) At what did Israel not arrive? \_\_\_\_\_ (9:31).
        - c) Why not? It is because Israel did not pursue righteousness by \_\_\_\_\_ but by endeavoring to perform \_\_\_\_\_ (9:32a).

- d) Over what did Israel stumble? \_\_\_\_\_  
(9:32b).
- e) Paul then supported his conclusion by quoting Isaiah 28:16  
and 8:14 (9:33):
- i What did God promise He would lay in Zion? A  
\_\_\_\_\_ and a \_\_\_\_\_.
  - ii Who or what is this stone / rock? \_\_\_\_\_.
  - iii Whom did Scripture say would stumble over and be  
offended at this stone / rock? Isa. 8:14. \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_.
  - iv What would happen to everyone who believes in  
Him? Isa. 28:16; Rom. 9:33. \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_.
- b. **Israel failed by trying to establish her own method of righteousness.  
10:1-5.**
- 1) What is Paul's desire and prayer for Israel? 10:1. \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_.
  - 2) What does Paul say the Jewish people have? 10:2a. A \_\_\_\_\_  
for God.
  - 3) What is wrong with the zeal the Jewish people have? 10:2b  
\_\_\_\_\_.
  - 4) About what do the Jewish people not know? 10:3a. \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_.
  - 5) What are they seeking to establish? 10:3b. \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_.
  - 6) To what have they not submitted? 10:3c. \_\_\_\_\_.
  - 7) What is the relationship of Jesus Christ to the law and  
righteousness? 10:4a. \_\_\_\_\_.
  - 8) What is the only way a person can take advantage of Jesus Christ  
and the righteousness He provides apart from our struggling to  
keep the law? 10:4b. \_\_\_\_\_.

- 9) What did Paul say Moses predicted about a man who practices righteousness based on law? 10:5. Would he live or die? \_\_\_\_\_.
- a) Paul was quoting from Leviticus 18:5 and Ezekiel 20:11. What God stated in both passages was that if the Israelis would keep His laws, they would \_\_\_\_\_. Doing things God's way always promotes life, not death.
  - b) Unfortunately, the Israelis generally disobeyed God's laws. Consequently He sent repeated judgments and they kept dying (Neh. 9:29-30; Ezek. 20:13).
  - c) Another thing that Paul may have meant was that it was necessary to keep the *entire* law in order to gain righteousness by law-keeping. What would happen if someone failed at one point? (Deut. 27:26; Galatians 3:10; James 2:10). \_\_\_\_\_.

c. **Israel failed to understand the "by faith" nature of righteousness as stated in her own Scriptures. 10:6-15.**

- 1) In Romans 10:6-10, Paul wrote about the *nearness* of righteousness that comes by faith. Paul quoted from Deut. 30:12-14.
  - a) To what place did they *not* have to work hard and go to get this righteousness through Jesus? 10:6. \_\_\_\_\_.
  - b) To what place did they *not* have to work hard and descend in order to resurrect Jesus from the dead so He could provide them with righteousness? 10:7. \_\_\_\_\_.
  - c) Where was the message about faith which Paul was preaching? 10:8. \_\_\_\_\_.
  - d) What did they need to confess with their mouths? 10:9a. \_\_\_\_\_ (See also Matt. 10:32; Luke 12:8.)
  - e) What did they need to believe in their hearts? 10:9b. \_\_\_\_\_ (See also Acts 16:31; Rom. 4:24.)
  - f) What will happen to the one who puts into action both his mouth and his heart as Paul stated? 10:9c. \_\_\_\_\_.

- g) With the \_\_\_\_\_ a person \_\_\_\_\_ resulting in \_\_\_\_\_ . 10:10a.
- h) With the \_\_\_\_\_ a person \_\_\_\_\_ resulting in \_\_\_\_\_ . 10:10b.
- 2) In Romans 10:11-13 Paul wrote about the *universal availability* of righteousness that comes by faith. 10:11-13.
- a) Quoting Isaiah 28:16, what does Paul state about *any* and *every* person who believes in Jesus? 10:11. \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_!
- b) Is any distinction to be made between a Jewish person and a Greek (non-Jewish) person? 10:12a. \_\_\_\_\_
- c) Why not? Because the same Lord (Master) Jesus is Lord (Master) over whom? 10:12b. \_\_\_\_\_.
- d) What does Jesus do for all who call on Him? 10:12c \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_.
- e) Quoting Joel 2:32, Paul concludes that \_\_\_\_\_ will \_\_\_\_\_ upon the name of the Lord \_\_\_\_\_. 10:13.
- 3) In the next paragraph, Paul discussed the *universal communication* implications of the righteousness that comes by faith. 10:14-15.
- a) It is impossible for people to *call* upon Jesus if they have not first \_\_\_\_\_ in Him. 10:14a
- b) It is impossible for people to *believe* in Jesus if they have not first \_\_\_\_\_ about Him. 10:14b.
- c) It is impossible for people to *hear* about Jesus if there is not first a \_\_\_\_\_ (meaning someone who \_\_\_\_\_ about Him). 10:14c
- d) It is unlikely that any will *communicate* about Jesus unless they first are \_\_\_\_\_. 10:15
- e) Paul quoted from Isaiah 52:7. 10:15b. Who has beautiful feet? \_\_\_\_\_.

4) Israel as a nation failed to obey the good news about righteousness by faith. 10:16-21.

a) The analysis of incomplete obedience. 10:16-17.

i Did all Israelis heed the good news? 10:16a. \_\_\_\_\_

ii What did Isaiah say? 10:16b quoting Isa. 53:1.  
\_\_\_\_\_.

iii Where does faith come from? 10:17a. \_\_\_\_\_.

iv Where does hearing come from? 10:17b. \_\_\_\_\_.

b) Is Israel's lack of faith due to a lack of hearing (10:18a)?

i Paul quotes from Psalm 19:4. 10:18b.

ii Where has "their voice" gone? \_\_\_\_\_

iii Where have "their words" gone? \_\_\_\_\_

iv To what do "their voice" and "their words" refer? (Psalm 19:1-3). \_\_\_\_\_.

v God has always planned for His message to go where? 10:18b; Ps. 19:4 \_\_\_\_\_.

vi If people do not respond to the message of the stars, what chance is there they will respond to the message about Jesus? \_\_\_\_\_.

vii If people do respond to the message of the stars, what chance is there they will respond to the message about Jesus? \_\_\_\_\_.

c) Is Israel's faith due to a lack of knowledge? 10:19-21.

i In 10:19 Paul quoted from Deuteronomy 32:21.

(1) How had Israel made God jealous? Deut. 32:21a. \_\_\_\_\_.

(2) In response, how was God going to make Israel jealous? Deut. 32:21b. \_\_\_\_\_.

- ii In 10:20, Paul quoted from Isaiah 65:1.
  - (1) By whom did God permit Himself to be sought? \_\_\_\_\_.
  - (2) By whom did God permit Himself to be found? \_\_\_\_\_.
  - (3) What did God say to a nation who did not call on His name? “\_\_\_\_\_.”
- iii In Romans 10:21, Paul quotes God's sad assessment of His people Israel from Isaiah 65:2.
  - (1) To whom has God stretched out His hands all day long? \_\_\_\_\_.
  - (2) What have the people of Israel done instead of responding to God? (Isa. 65:2). They walk in the way which is not \_\_\_\_\_, and they follow their own \_\_\_\_\_.

d. The conclusion of the matter is this. God has given Israel opportunity after opportunity to respond in faith to Himself. They have not done so, and it is their fault, not His. Israel set about to establish righteousness before God on the basis of their own works (a standard with which they never could and never did comply). As a result they were disobedient and repeatedly went after other gods. Later in their history they continued to have hard hearts toward God. Since they did not seek God, God set out to seek people among the earth's nations who would respond to Him. This refers to all Gentiles who have trusted in Jesus. So God is not to be blamed for Israel's failure. Israel has had every opportunity and has rejected God at every juncture. It is Israel's fault, not God's.

### **Study 18, Israel's Failure to Attain the Righteousness of God**

Romans 9:30-10:21

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