



A Worship Discussion Guide for Individuals, Groups & Families For the week of May 7, 2023

Read the Bible passage aloud in your group meeting. This is a worship discussion guide, and our reflections and applications are grounded in Scripture. You do not need to work through the whole guide. Decide which points would be most helpful for your meeting, and use them as a starting point for your time together.

Warm Up

- For what are you responsible before God? For what are you not responsible?

Romans 9:30-10:21

Confess, Believe and Proclaim

Last week, Paul attributed the unbelief of most Jews to God's sovereign purposes ([Romans 9:1-29](#)). This week, he ascribes their unbelief to their own blindness and arrogance. Are these two ideas in conflict? How do they fit together?

^{9:30} What shall we say, then? That Gentiles who did not pursue righteousness have attained it, that is, a righteousness that is by faith; ³¹ but that Israel who pursued a law that would lead to righteousness did not succeed in reaching that law. ³² Why? Because they did not pursue it by faith, but as if it were based on works. They have stumbled over the stumbling stone, ³³ as it is written, "Behold, I am laying in Zion a stone of stumbling, and a rock of offense; and whoever believes in him will not be put to shame." [[Isaiah 8:14, 28:16](#)]

- What is the reason for Israel's unbelief?
- In Romans 9:18, Paul said that God "*has mercy on whomever He wills, and He hardens whomever He wills.*" Is Paul now contradicting himself?
- Why would people so concerned about righteousness be prone to miss the Gospel?

^{10:1} Brothers, my heart's desire and prayer to God for them is that they may be saved. ² For I bear them witness that they have a zeal for God, but not according to knowledge. ³ For, being ignorant of the righteousness of God, and seeking to establish their own, they did not submit to God's righteousness. ⁴ For Christ is the end of the law for righteousness to everyone who believes.

⁵ For Moses writes about the righteousness that is based on the law, that the person who does the commandments shall live by them [[Leviticus 18:5](#)]. ⁶ But the righteousness based on faith says, "Do not say in your heart, 'Who will ascend into heaven?'" (that is, to bring Christ down) ⁷ "or 'Who will descend into the abyss?'" (that is, to bring Christ up from the dead) [[Deuteronomy 30:12-13](#)]. ⁸ But what does it say? "The word is near you, in your mouth and in your heart" [[Deuteronomy 30:14](#)] (that is, the word of faith that we proclaim);

- Why does Paul esteem Israel (2a)?
- However, what spiritual problem plagues Israel (2b-3)?
- How does Paul demonstrate that they are responsible for their ignorance?
- What does it mean that Christ is "the end of the law" (4)?

⁹ because, if you confess with your mouth that Jesus is Lord and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved. ¹⁰ For with the heart one believes and is justified, and with the mouth one confesses and is saved. ¹¹ For the Scripture says, "Everyone who believes in him will not be put to shame." [[Isaiah 28:16](#)] ¹² For there is no distinction between Jew and Greek; for the same Lord is Lord of all, bestowing his riches on all who call on him. ¹³ For "everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved." [[Joel 2:32](#)]

- **What does Romans 10:9-13 teach us about how someone becomes a Christian?**

¹⁴ How then will they call on him in whom they have not believed? And how are they to believe in him of whom they have never heard? And how are they to hear without someone preaching? ¹⁵ And how are they to preach unless they are sent? As it is written, "How beautiful are the feet of those who preach the good news!" [[Isaiah 52:7](#)] ¹⁶ But they have not all obeyed the gospel. For Isaiah says, "Lord, who has believed what he has heard from us?" [[Isaiah 53:1](#)] ¹⁷ So faith comes from hearing, and hearing through the word of Christ.

- **What does Romans 10:14-17 teach us about how God has designed Christian ministry?**

¹⁸ But I ask, have they not heard? Indeed they have, for "Their voice has gone out to all the earth, and their words to the ends of the world." [[Psalm 19:4](#)] ¹⁹ But I ask, did Israel not understand? First Moses says, "I will make you jealous of those who are not a nation; with a foolish nation I will make you angry." [[Deuteronomy 32:21](#)] ²⁰ Then Isaiah is so bold as to say, "I have been found by those who did not seek me; I have shown myself to those who did not ask for me." [[Isaiah 65:1](#)] ²¹ But of Israel he says, "All day long I have held out my hands to a disobedient and contrary people." [[Isaiah 65:2](#)]

- **What does Romans 10:18-21 teach us about human responsibility before God?**
- **Pray together in light of this week's passage.**

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Questions? Contact Pastor Kevin Greene,
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