

Romans 10:1-4

Zeal Without Knowledge

1. Romans 10

- a. The theme of chapter 10 can be found in Rom 9:30-33: Israel's stumbling.
- b. We identified the stone of stumbling (from Isaiah) as the LORD in Zion requiring belief.
- c. Israel's stone of stumbling (and why they rejected salvation) was Jesus Christ.

2. 10:1 – Israel's Salvation

- a. *"Brethren..."* - The readers are believers, but the subject is unbelieving Israel.
- b. *"desire and prayer to God for Israel"* - explains why Paul went to synagog/Jerusalem in Acts
- c. *"be saved"* - Israel will be saved in the kingdom come: Rom 11:12, 26-27, Luke 1:69-75
 - i. There is salvation in none other but Christ – Acts 4:11-12, 26:6-8, 20-24, 28-29
- d. We can learn from Paul's prayer to God:
 - i. Paul's response to Christ-rejecting Israel: they need be saved - Rom 11:28-32
 - ii. The heart of evangelism is produced by grace not law (Saul slaughtered enemies)
 - iii. Israel is fallen. Israel needs salvation, but Gentiles are receiving it.
 - iv. We can pray for the lost who need to be saved, that they might be. 1 Tim 2:4

3. 10:2 – Zeal Without Knowledge

- a. *"I bear them record"* – Paul was an example of this zeal – Acts 26:9-13, Phil 3:6, Gal 1:14
- b. *"zeal of God"* – boast in Him, keeping religion, law – Matt 23, Rom 2:17-20, Gal 4:17
 - i. Zeal w/o God is a zeal for pleasure, pride, and personal success (the world 1Jn 2:16)
 - ii. Zeal for God aptly describes the curse of modern church pursuing emotion/passion
 - iii. Zeal of God describes men who want the things of God (Rom 9:4-5, e.g. kingdom)
 - iv. (So-called "head knowledge vs. heart knowledge" language goes out the window)
 - v. These people did things with zeal, but they did not know.
 - vi. Faith without works is dead under the law, but works without faith is vanity.
- c. *"not according to knowledge"* - an ounce of which is better than a ton of effort (Church!)
 - i. Without knowledge means they were ignorant of how to get it. 1 Tim 1:13-16
 - ii. Without knowledge = without faith = without Christ. Col 2:3, Phi 3:8
 - iii. Faith is a form of knowledge. It requires hearing something and believing it.
 - iv. Without knowledge is dispensationally significant: today (faith), then (law/works)

4. 10:3 – The Righteousness of God

- a. *"Ignorant of God's righteousness"* - they lacked this knowledge – Rom 3:19-22
- b. *"and going about to establish their own"* – by their doing law - Deu 6:25, Matt 23:23
- c. *"have not submitted themselves..."* to Christ Matt 6:33, 19:16-22, John 6:47, Gal 3:24
 - i. Zealous of the law, but did not learn the lesson of the law - Mk 2:15-17, Jn 9:39-41
- d. *"the righteousness of God"* which is found in Jesus Christ and his work.
 You either receive God's righteousness or you produce your own.
 - i. The second is from you doing the perfect work (law), and it is impossible.
 - ii. The first is fulfilled by Christ's work and must be received by faith.
 - iii. It is called "faith of Christ" and is always contrasted to law for righteousness.
- e. Righteousness of God not received by flesh, law, works, but by faith through Christ. Rom 4
- f. Why does this means of righteousness matter? Israel was zealous to get the fruits of it.