

Romans: Paul's Symphony

Paul's Heart for the Israelites: Romans 10:1-21

February 28, 2021

In elementary school, what was your hardest subject? What did you do to try to improve your grades? What were some of the hard and fast rules observed in your house when you were growing up?

What would you say is the general view in the world today about how a person can get to heaven?

Read Romans 10:1-4. What hope does Paul have for the Israelites in the first verse? How does this connect to the prayer he imagined praying in 9:3? How does his description of his fellow Jews echo his description of his own life in Phil. 3:4-9?

What "stumbling stones" do you see that keep people away from God? (see 9:33)

Read 10:5-10. According to verses 9-10, how is one saved? How would the attitude of a person coming to God on the basis of his or her performance (v. 5) be different from that of someone coming to him by faith in Christ (vv. 8-9)?

Read 10:11-15. How do the questions Paul asks in verses 14 and 15 challenge you?

What do you think about Paul's statement that "the same Lord is Lord of all" (v. 12)? What about people in prison? What about people of other nations? What about your neighbors?

What do you see as the basic difference between Christianity and other religions? What does it mean to confess "Jesus is Lord"? How does this tie in with belief? When did you first put your trust in Jesus?

Read 10:16-17. Where does Paul say faith comes from? When did you first come to realize that it isn't so much what you do for God, but what he's done for you?

The central affirmation of the early church was "Jesus is Lord"; everyone else was saying "Caesar is Lord." Who (or what) are some gods that compete with your allegiance to Christ?

Read 10:18-21. How do these Scripture passages support Paul's argument? How do they confront and challenge us?

Next week: **The Remnant of Israel**—read *Romans 11:1-10*