



Getting Righteousness the Right Way

Lesson 13 | Romans 9:30-10:21

Many people today think they can be good enough to get to heaven. This is nothing new, and in Romans 9:30-10:21 we see Israel also thought they could be righteous by following the law.

Israel Sought Righteousness by the Law and Not by Faith

Israel Made a Faulty _____ at Righteousness (9:30-33)

The fact that Israel missed out on the gospel and the Gentiles received its blessing would have seemed odd if you lived during the first century. The reason for this situation is that the Jews had tried hard to get God's blessings, but they tried the wrong way. They tried to get them through following the law while the Gentiles simply followed the way God had set it up – through faith in Christ.

Israel Had a Faulty _____ of the Law (10:1-8)

The Jews saw keeping the law as the ultimate goal, but that was never the plan. The law was supposed to be something that pointed to Jesus, who is the reason for the law. Paul contrasts those who live by the law to earn life (which he has already taught is impossible) those who respond to the message of faith which is close at hand. Just as the first covenant that God made with Israel was made plain to them, so the New Covenant that God is making with all who trust in Christ has been made clear to all.

Israel _____ the Proper Way of Righteousness (10:9-13)

These verses are some of the most well-known in all of Scripture, describing how it is that a person can be saved from God's coming wrath. Building on his citation of Deuteronomy 30:12-15, Paul teaches



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that people are saved by confessing with their mouth the Lord Jesus and believing in their heart God raised Him from the dead. This the only way of salvation for both Jews and Gentiles. Salvation can only be achieved through coming in faith to receive the righteousness that God offers.

Israel Rejected the Gospel Message of Righteousness by Faith

The _____ of a Gospel Preacher (10:14-17)

If the message of the gospel is near and must be believed, then it must first be heard. If it must be heard, someone must share the good news. And in order for someone to share the good news, they must first be sent. Paul believes that those who haven't heard need to hear, but he also shows that Israel *has* heard. They simply have rejected the gospel. Yet Paul points out that even during the time of Isaiah the good news of God's salvation was rejected. Paul sees history repeating itself as the Israel once again rejects God's message.

Israel's Rejection of Gospel _____ (10:18-21)

Israel didn't believe the gospel message (10:16). Was this because they didn't hear? No, the testimony of Christ went out clearly to all the Jews (10:18). Maybe they didn't accept the gospel message because they just really didn't understand? No, the Gentiles who didn't even know God had heard the message and believed. If those who were not seeking God can respond in faith, certainly God's own people can. Therefore, Israel is responsible for their rejection of the gospel.

The people of God had rejected the Messiah sent by God, and this happened because they sought to gain their own righteousness by following God's law rather than trusting in simple faith. Yet Paul's words ring true for many today who think that they can earn the blessings of God. We must remember that salvation comes by faith in Christ, not by what we have done.

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