

Book Study #17 ROMANS

Rom. 9:30-10:21 – Israel's Unbelief

Before We Begin...

30What then shall we say? That the Gentiles, who did not pursue righteousness, have obtained it, a righteousness that is by faith; 31but Israel, who pursued a law of righteousness, has not attained it. 32Why not? Because they pursued it not by faith but as if it were by works. They stumbled over the "stumbling stone." 33As it is written: "See, I lay in Zion a stone that causes men to stumble and a rock that makes them fall, and the one who trusts in him will never be put to shame."a Brothers, my heart's desire and prayer to God for the Israelites is that they may be saved. 2For I can testify about them that they are zealous for God, but their zeal is not based on knowledge. 3Since they did not know the righteousness that comes from God and sought to establish their own, they did not submit to God's righteousness. 4Christ is the end of the law so that there may be righteousness for everyone who believes. 5Moses describes in this way the righteousness that is by the law: "The man who does these things will live by them."b But the righteousness that is by faith says: "Do not say in your heart, 'Who will ascend into heaven?'"c (that is, to bring Christ down) 7"or 'Who will descend into the deep?'"d (that is, to bring Christ up from the dead). 8But what does it say? "The word is near you; it is in your mouth and in your heart,"e that is, the word of faith we are proclaiming: 9That if you confess with your mouth, "Jesus is Lord," and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved. 10For it is with your heart that you believe and are justified, and it is with your mouth that you confess and are saved. 11As the Scripture says, "Anyone who trusts in him will never be put to shame."f 12For there is no difference between Jew and Gentile--the same Lord is Lord of all and richly blesses all who call on him, 13for, "Everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved."g 14How, then, can they call on the one they have not believed in? And how can they believe in the one of whom they have not heard? And how can they hear without someone preaching to them? 15And how can they preach unless they are sent? As it is written, "How beautiful are the feet of those who bring good news!"h 16But not all the Israelites accepted the good news. For Isaiah says, "Lord who has believed our message?"i 17Consequently, faith comes from hearing the message, and the message is heard through the word of Christ. 18But I ask, Did they not hear? Of course they did: "Their voice has gone out into all the earth, their words to the ends of the world."j 19Again I ask, did Israel not understand? First, Moses says, "I will make you envious by those who are not a nation; I will make you angry by a nation that has no understanding."k 20And Isaiah boldly says, "I was found by those who did not seek me; I revealed myself to those who did not ask for me."l 21But concerning Israel he says, "All day long I have held out my hands to a disobedient and obstinate people."m



a33 Isaiah 8:14; 28:16 b5 Lev. 18:5 c6 Deut. 30:12 d7 Deut. 30:13 e8 Deut. 30:14 f11 Isaiah 28:16 g13 Joel 2:32
h15 Isaiah 52:7 i16 Isaiah 53:1 j18 Psalm 19:4 k19 Deut. 32:21 l20 Isaiah 65:1 m21 Isaiah 65:2



Let's get in gear...

In your household, which one can't seem to keep track of their keys, billfold, purse, etc.?

Exploration... Discovery... Revelation...

1. Who or what did the Jews "stumble" over? (vv. 32-33; see Isaiah 8:13-14)

2. In verses 30-33, Paul reveals a surprising paradox. What is it?

3. How does he explain this turn of events?

The JOURNEYMEN

"We are journeying unto the place of which the LORD said,
I will give it to you: come with us, and we will do you good..."

-- Numbers 10:29



4. What positive quality did the Jews possess regarding God, and what did they lack? What was the result? (vv. 1-3)

5. In verses 5-13, Paul contrasts two kinds of "righteousness". What are they and how do they differ?

6. From this passage, how would you answer the question, "What must I do to be saved"? How would the answer be different if you were talking to a Jew versus a non-Jew?

7. What events form the essential link between the facts of the gospel and the response of faith? (vv. 14-15)

8. Paul uses two rhetorical questions to show that the unbelieving response of the Jews was not due to a lack of information, but to hardness of heart. List these questions and orally summarize Paul's answers.

What do you think? Some "food" for thought...

1. Case study: A friend of yours is involved in Eastern religions. When you talk with him about Christ, he says, "It doesn't matter what you believe, as long as you're sincere" How might you respond?
2. What is the main thing Paul is trying to demonstrate in this passage?



As we complete this part of the Journey...

A prayer for your journey... "As I walk through this coming week, help me prepare for my journey by reading my Bible more regularly, seeking help as I need it from my Christian friends and focusing on the needs of others instead of myself. Help me to demonstrate my faith by stepping into the unknown, untried, and untested areas of my life. I pray in the name of Jesus" -Amen