

Evening Worship / March 19 2023
"The Necessity of Faith!" Romans 9:30 – 10:13

Paul is still dealing with the same question, why are so many of his brethren, according to the flesh, Jewish people, not saved?

*Paul's first answer to that question, which he gave us in **Romans 9:1-29**, was that the Jews her rejected Jesus were not the ones whom God chose! They were children of the flesh, but not children of the promise!*

¹⁴ **"For many are called, but few are chosen."** Matthew 22:14 (NKJV)

Here Paul starts to give us the second reason that many Jewish people were LOST, and that is LACK of SAVING FAITH –

What does God, through Paul teach us about faith?

I. Faith in God is necessary for right seeking –

³⁰ What shall we say then? That Gentiles, who did not pursue righteousness, have attained to righteousness, even the righteousness of faith; ³¹ but Israel, pursuing the law of righteousness, has not attained to the law of righteousness. ³² Why? Because *they did not seek it by faith, but as it were, by the works of the law. For they stumbled at that stumbling stone.* ³³ As it is written: *"Behold, I lay in Zion a stumbling stone and rock of offense, And whoever believes on Him will not be put to shame."* Romans 9:30–33 (NKJV)

1. Gentiles were not pursuing righteousness, yet attained it? :30

A. This righteousness was God's / Apart from the law

²¹ But now the righteousness of God apart from the law is revealed, being witnessed by the Law and the Prophets, ²² even the righteousness of God, through faith in Jesus Christ, to all and on all who believe. For there is no difference; ²³ for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God, Romans 3:21–23 (NKJV)

B. It is attained by believing in Jesus, trusting in His sacrifice, His work on the cross to cover our sins –

⁵ Therefore, having been justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ, Romans 5:1 (NKJV)

¹⁴ For by one offering He has perfected forever those who are being sanctified. Hebrews 10:14 (NKJV)

⁵ and from Jesus Christ, the faithful witness, the firstborn from the dead, and the ruler over the kings of the earth. To Him who loved us and washed us from our sins in His own blood, Revelation 1:5 (NKJV)

2. The Jews thought they could keep the law, that they could stand before God in their own righteousness, Jesus was the stumbling block for them, they were ashamed of Him, dying

on a cross, they thought made them LOOK BAD, because He was a Jew too! Yet, they put Him there with their SINS!

Fact is, we all did –

⁵ But He was wounded for our transgressions, He was bruised for our iniquities; The chastisement for our peace was upon Him, And by His stripes we are healed. Isaiah 53:5 (NKJV)

A. The gentiles typically saw this, because they saw their NEED, they were sinners in need of grace –

⁸ For by grace you have been saved through faith, and that not of yourselves; it is the gift of God, Ephesians 2:8 (NKJV)

B. Even faith is not of us, and that not of yourselves, it is God's gift!

C. There is no room for human pride –

⁹ not of works, lest anyone should boast. Ephesians 2:9 (NKJV)

II. What Israel had, and yet they still LACK –

10 Brethren, my heart's desire and prayer to God for Israel 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 they being ignorant of God's righteousness, and seeking to establish their own righteousness, have not submitted to the righteousness of God. ⁴ For Christ is the end of the law for righteousness to everyone who believes. Romans 10:1–4 (NKJV)

1. They had Paul's heart desire and prayer for salvation!

A. Do we know people like this, people we PRAY FOR!

B. People who are unsaved, yet we love them?

2. They had zeal for God, yet ignorant! Basically, they were missing Jesus Christ!

III. Truth's about saving faith:

1. It is different than Moses' law -

⁵ For Moses writes about the righteousness which is of the law, "The man who does those things shall live by them." ⁶ But the righteousness of faith speaks in this way, "Do not say in your heart, 'Who will ascend into heaven?' " (that is, to bring Christ down from above) ⁷ or, " 'Who will descend into the abyss?' " (that is, to bring Christ up from the dead). ⁸ But what does it say? "The word is near you, in your mouth and in your heart" (that is, the word of faith which we preach): Romans 10:5–8 (NKJV)

A. The law involves doing what is right, and doing so perfectly, keeping the law is an attainment – Romans 10:5

B. Yet, faith does not require human attainment, we did not send or get Jesus Christ from Heaven? Romans 10:6 Were we the ones who raised Christ from the dead? Romans 10:7

The things Paul mentions here are things God did to accomplish our salvation, we did not do these things!

2. *It is not even a response to an altar call -*

⁹that if you confess with your mouth the Lord Jesus and believe in your heart that God has raised Him from the dead, you will be saved. ¹⁰For with the heart one believes unto righteousness, and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation. ¹¹For the Scripture says, “Whoever believes on Him will not be put to shame.” ¹²For there is no distinction between Jew and Greek, for the same Lord over all is rich to all who call upon Him. ¹³For “whoever calls on the name of the LORD shall be saved.” Romans 10:9–13 (NKJV)

A. *Many years ago, I “went forward” in a church in response to an altar call.*

B. *A bit after that I “went forward” again in response to an altar call at a Second Chapter of Acts concert!*

Do the verses above, Romans 10:9-13, saying anything specifically about a church building? An altar call? Going forward?

C. *As a pastor I have even given altar calls ... but are they necessary? When I started at the First Christian Church in Dallas City, I gave an altar call every Sunday morning, until I did not ... the first one I missed one, one of my elders said to me –*

“You are denying people the opportunity to be saved?” Elder Eldon Sparrow

What are the words above Romans 10:9-13 saying does faith require no works, zero nada? Or just one small work, walking down the isle of a church?

3. *I believe Eldon Sparrow was wrong, faith does not require an isle walk in a church!*

4. *What about confession / and heart belief?*

A. *There are false professions of faith –*

²¹ “Not everyone who says to Me, ‘Lord, Lord,’ shall enter the kingdom of heaven, but he who does the will of My Father in heaven. ²² Many will say to Me in that day, ‘Lord, Lord, have we not prophesied in Your name, cast out demons in Your name, and done many wonders in Your name?’ ²³ And then I will declare to them, ‘I never knew you; depart from Me, you who practice lawlessness!’ Matthew 7:21–23 (NKJV)

B. *A real profession / confession of faith is a lifetime thing, and a before all men thing, not a one-time only profession before a friendly church -*

³⁰ By faith the walls of Jericho fell down after they were encircled for seven days. ³¹ By faith the harlot Rahab did not perish with those who did not believe, when she had received the spies with peace....

Others were tortured, not accepting deliverance, that they might obtain a better resurrection.

³⁶ Still others had trial of mockings and scourgings, yes, and of chains and imprisonment. ³⁷ They were stoned, they were sawn in two, were tempted, were slain with the sword. They wandered about in sheepskins and goatskins, being destitute, afflicted, tormented—³⁸ of whom the world was not worthy. They wandered in deserts and mountains, *in* dens and caves of the earth.

³⁹ And all these, having obtained a good testimony through faith, did not receive the promise, Hebrews 11:30-31 & :35 B–39 (NKJV)

5. Yet, truly, rightly calling on God will save a person –

¹³ For “**whoever calls on the name of the LORD shall be saved.**” Romans 10:9–13 (NKJV)

A. God’s goodness saves

B. *It is faith in Him, our faith is not in walking forward, in the way we call Him (our prayers) or even in faith, we don’t put faith in faith, that is a deception of the Devil!*

One lady once told me, “if we lack FAITH, Satan can tie up and torture Jesus! Jesus NEEDS OUR FAITH.” That is faith in faith as if it was some kind of power we have that we use to help strengthen a weak Savior...

IV. *The Jewish people who were not saved, needed and got, but resisted the preacher(s) of faith – (a preview of next week’s message)*

¹⁴ How then shall they call on Him in whom they have not believed? And how shall they believe in Him of whom they have not heard? And how shall they hear without a preacher? ¹⁵ And how shall they preach unless they are sent? As it is written: “**How beautiful are the feet of those who preach the gospel of peace, Who bring glad tidings of good things!**” ¹⁶ But they have not all obeyed the gospel. For Isaiah says, “**LORD, who has believed our report?**” ¹⁷ So then faith comes by hearing, and hearing by the word of God. ¹⁸ But I say, have they not heard? Yes indeed: “**Their sound has gone out to all the earth, And their words to the ends of the world.**” ¹⁹ But I say, did Israel not know? First Moses says: “**I will provoke you to jealousy by those who are not a nation, I will move you to anger by a foolish nation.**” ²⁰ But Isaiah is very bold and says: “**I was found by those who did not seek Me; I was made manifest to those who did not ask for Me.**” ²¹ But to Israel he says: “**All day long I have stretched out My hands To a disobedient and contrary people.**” Romans 10:14–21 (NKJV)

1. *The preacher is the one who brings the Good News of the Gospel – Romans 10:14-15*

2. *Isaiah, the prophet, among other prophets, were preachers of Jesus Christ, who preached to the Jewish people, even during Old Testament Times – Romans 10:16-18*

3. *They had opportunity, they had blessings, God was reaching out to them – Romans 10:21*

Next Week, why were so many Israelites lost? Reason #3 They resisted God’s Word - ²³ having been born again, not of corruptible seed but incorruptible, through the word of God which lives and abides forever, ²⁴ because “**All flesh is as grass, And all the glory of man as the flower of the grass. The grass withers, And its flower falls away,**” ²⁵ But the word of the LORD endures forever.” Now this is the word which by the gospel was preached to you. 1 Peter 1:23–25 (NKJV)

⁹ One who turns away his ear from hearing the law, Even his prayer is an abomination. Proverbs 28:9 (NKJV)

Three Reasons so Far -

1. They were not chosen! 2. They did not have saving faith! 3. They resisted God’s Word!