

XXXVII. Israel's Failure - Pt 1: Ignorance of God's Righteousness

A. The Place of Israel in God's Plan

1. Truth

a. Jesus was "Full of Grace and Truth" - Jo 1:14

b. Declares Himself to be the source and measure of truth - Eph 4:21

i. Abiding in Christ's word would cause one to know the truth - Jo 8:31

ii. Knowing the truth would set one free - Jo 8:32

c. everyone who is of the truth hears His voice - Jo 18:37

d. being the truth, only those coming through Him, come to the Father - Jo 14:6

2. The Spirit of Truth - Jo 14:17; 15:26

a. will guide believers into all truth - Jo 16:13

i. won't speak of Himself

ii. Speaks what He hears

b. uses the truth to sanctify His people - Jo 17:17,19; 2 Th 2:13

3. Judgment by Truth - Ro 2:2

a. those who perish didn't receive the truth - 2 Th 2:10, 12

b. reliance on one's own knowledge and understanding falls short - Ro 2:8; 2 Ti 2:18; 3:7-8; 4:4

4. The Jews and the Truth

a. Concerned with the truth - Ro 2:17-20

b. Rabbis, who were often scribes,

i. means teacher, master, or father

ii. They were carefully instructed in Jewish traditions, which often

- wrongly interpreted scripture

- even sometimes contradictory to scripture

iii. Were thought to be possessors of truth

iv. So esteemed that their teachings were seldom questioned

c. In the time of Christ, most Jews spoke Aramaic, not Hebrew

i. OT in Hebrew

ii. Rabbis had an additional advantage in their interpretation of scripture

5. Spiritual Ignorance and Consequences

a. Exile - Is 5:13

b. Destruction and loss of the next generation - Hos 4:6

c. Rebellion - Is 1:2-4

d. God's Loathing - Ps 95:10

e. Rejection of their Messiah

B. Paul's Desire and Prayer

1. Knowing God's Plan doesn't change Paul's Love for his People - Ro 9:1-3

a. my heart's desire and prayer to God for Israel

i. *eudokia* - satisfaction, delight, wish, purpose:--desire.

ii. *deesis* - conveys pleading, consistent petition

b. is that they may be saved. - they would place trust in their Messiah as Savior

2. Paul understood God's Sovereignty in His plan for Israel

- a. Paul's calling was to be an apostle to the Gentiles - Ro 11:3; Ac 9:15
 - i. The apostles had been given God's plan to reach the world in Ac 1:8
 - ii. Jesus said that salvation is from the Jews - Jo 4:22
- b. The Gospel is the power of salvation to all who believe, to the Jew first and also to the Gentile - Ro 1:16
- c. Paul normally started his preaching in Jewish places of worship - Ac 9:20; 13:14; 14:1; 16:13
- d. Paul recognized Israel's rejection of Messiah as God's plan to save Gentiles - Ac 18:6

C. Zeal without Knowledge

1. For I bear them witness that they have a zeal for God,
 - a. Spoke from personal experience and knowledge of zeal - Ac 22:3; 26:4-5; Ga 1:13-14
 - b. Spoke of the extent of his zeal - Phil 3:5-6
2. but not according to knowledge.
 - a. **epignosis** - recognition, full discernment, acknowledgement.
 - i. comes only from a saving relationship to God
 - ii. Causes humility and holiness - Eph 1:17-18
 - b. the Jews had a certain degree of **gnosis**
 - i. intellectual awareness of the outward demands of God's law - Ro 9:31
 - ii. The kind of knowledge that causes pride and arrogance - 1 Co 8:1
 - iii. Judaizers were looking to get others to follow the law - Ga 4:17

D. Ignorant Un-Submission

1. lack of knowledge is tied to a lack of faith
 - a. they stumbled over the stumbling stone - Ro 9:31-32
 - b. Israel's rejection was not due to arbitrary divine election
 - i. the whole of scripture are a testimony of God's calling Israel to himself
 - ii. Israel was entrusted w/ the oracles of God - Ro 3:2
 - iii. Israel had rejected God before God had rejected Israel - Ro 1:18-21
2. Willingly and inexcusably ignorant
 - a. For they being ignorant of God's righteousness,
 - i. they sought to establish their own righteousness,
 - ii. have not submitted to the righteousness of God.
 - iii. One can boast if you change the standard to what is doable - Mr 7:5-8; Ro 1:23
 - b. God is not like man made God's - Ps 5:5; 7:11
 - c. A weakened understanding of God's righteousness brings a weakened view of His judgment - Ps 50:16-21; Is 6:5; Lk 5:8
3. Jeremiah speaks of what man should boast - Jer 9:23-24; Php 3:9