

Introduction:

- Review last Wednesday chapter 9.

I. The Dilemma

- A. Jesus is salvation's crown! This is Paul's point here. He is the apex of the plan of God in redemptions history. God has worked with the Jews from the beginning. They have embrace God, followed God, stood with God, obeyed God and now Jesus! Jesus is not what they expected.
1. Jesus is salvation's crown and the Gentile have readily accepted Him!
 2. *"All those people who didn't seem interested in what God was doing actually embraced what God was doing as he straightened out their lives. And Israel, who seemed so interested in reading and talking about what God was doing, missed it."* The Message (Ro 9:30-31).
 3. The Jews are seemingly abandoning the call to be heirs of such a great salvation.
- B. While earlier in the chapter Paul speaks of election here he speaks of being made right with God by faith. This is Israel dilemma: She was chosen by God, the weeks most insignificant people, yet now at the apex of salvation's history she is refusing the Christ. What does this mean? Why?
1. Israel is determined to earn this salvation by works. How do we reconcile their dilemma?
 - a) Israel has failed to recognize the Gospel through her history.
 - b) Failure to recognize this is inexcusable given her history and OT scriptures.
 - c) He seeks to show us that the Gospel outlined in chapter 1-4 aligns with the OT. The OT is a witness to this Gospel.
 2. Gentiles have discovered that it is by faith we are made right with God.
- C. The word righteousness is used 10 times in this section. Of these 10 times Paul makes three points to parallel contrasts between the two kinds of righteousness.
1. "the righteousness based on faith" versus "the law of righteousness" (9:30-31);
 2. "the righteousness of God" versus "their own righteousness" (10:3);
 3. "the righteousness based on the law" versus "the righteousness based on faith" (10:5-6).
 4. The focus is on the righteousness of God the Gentiles have found through faith. The righteousness that the Jews are trying to find through the law is excluding them from the Gospel of Christ.
- D. Application
1. God has leveled the playing field in Christ to whosoever will...believe.
 2. People are still trying to win favor with God when it is faith the grants us heavens privileges.
 3. Christ is a stumbling block to anyone who tries to get favor/grace from God through works.

II. Paul's Desire, May Israel Be Saved! 10:1-13

- A. Paul's Point Though: We are made right by faith in Christ.
1. we have a law of God written on our hearts, and Israel has the law written down in history for all to read;
 2. we fail to live up to our invisible law, and she fails to live up to her visible and written law for all to see;

3. we are condemned by our conscience as an echo of God's more severe and just sentence, and Israel is condemned by God visibly and publicly;
 4. the remedy offered to Israel is faith in the Messiah, Jesus, who provides a righteousness that they could not provide for themselves, and that is perfectly suited for us Gentiles as well
 5. Paul describes why Israel missed the remedy, faith in Jesus Christ, so that we will not make the same mistake, and so that they can find their way back. (1-5 Points John Piper.)
- B. Vs. 3 they don't understand God's way of making people right with Him. Therefore! It is critical that we understand what that way is.
1. It is the way of faith! vs 4. Verse 4 is the hinge on which this entire section swings!
 2. The very message is the message of faith. vs. 8.
 - a) confess with mouth
 - b) believe in your heart
 - c) you will be saved. vs 9 & 10. "Confession is the outward manifestation of this critical inner response." NICNT Romans, Moo.
 3. Paul is anchoring the connection between righteousness and faith.

III. Israel Called Into Account

- A. vs 14, you have to believe in Him in order to call upon Him.
1. A sent one must go and preach.
 2. The Jew must believe and confess.
 3. Yet not everyone will believe! vs 16
- B. Faith comes from hearing...
1. Did Israel hear? Yes
 2. Did Israel understand? Yes
 3. But they did not receive, they were rebellious.
 4. Those who were not looking found. And those who were pursuing missed it.
- C. This set us up for chapter 11: Has God rejected Israel?

Conclusion:

- Paul wants all to learn: Righteousness comes by faith no matter who you are!