

ROMANS 9:30-33 and 10:1-17, SAVED BY GRACE, THROUGH FAITH.

Please read Romans 9:1-4 where Paul is so grieved and concerned for his fellow Jews that he would be willing to be accursed if that would save the Jews.

In Romans 9:22-26 Paul tells how Hosea prophesied that the Gentiles would become the children of God.

ROMANS 9:30-33. *What shall we say then? That the Gentiles, which followed not after righteousness, have attained to righteousness, even the righteousness which is of faith. But Israel, which followed after the law of righteousness, hath not attained to the law of righteousness. Wherefore: Because they sought it not by faith, but by the works of the law. For they stumbled at the stumbling stone; as it is written, **Behold, I lay in Zion a stumbling stone and rock of offense: And whosoever believeth on Him shall not be ashamed.***

Paul is saying: Here's what happened; The Gentiles were not trying to live righteously, but when given the opportunity to gain righteousness by simply trusting and believing in the grace of God, they were counted as righteous. While the Jews, trying to obtain righteousness by keeping the Law, failed. The reason they failed was that they tried to do enough good works to gain righteousness, and they stumbled when they refused to accept Jesus as the promised Messiah. That Stumbling Stone was Jesus and anyone and everyone who believed in Him obtained righteousness.

ROMANS 10:1-4. *Brethren, my heart's desire and prayer to God for Israel is, that they might be saved. For I bear them record that they have a zeal for God, but not according to knowledge. For they being ignorant of God's righteousness, and going about to establish their own righteousness, have not submitted themselves unto the righteousness of God. For Christ is the end of the law for righteousness to everyone that believeth.*

Paul truly had a broken heart for Israel, just as he stated in the first few verses of Romans 9. On the surface, most Jews were faithful to their religion, but they continually tried to earn their righteousness and thought they were righteous even though they knew they could not live without breaking part of the Law; yet if only one law was broken, the whole chain of law is broken. When Jesus presented Himself to the Jews, they refused Him, mocked Him, and crucified Him. Christ became a Man for the purpose of being the perfect Passover Lamb whose blood would atone for

the sins of the whole world and **put an end to the Law**, which required perfection in living.

ROMANS 10:8-10. *But what sayeth it? The word is nigh thee, even in thy mouth, and in thy heart; that is, the word of faith, which we preach: That if thou shalt confess with thy mouth the Lord Jesus, and shalt believe in thy heart that God hath raised him from the dead, thou shalt be saved. For with the heart man believeth unto righteousness; and with thy mouth confession is made unto salvation.*

In verses 6-7, which we skipped, Paul was talking about the righteousness of faith, and here he tells what it declares: First, a person, at the leading of the Holy Spirit, decides that it is true that Jesus, the Son of God, was raised from the dead and believes the promises of Jesus, then that person needs to confess with his mouth that Jesus is the Son of God. It does not do any good merely to believe, a person must express that belief by speaking his faith. After all, even the devil and his demons believe that Jesus is God, but they won't confess it. (*Editor's note: "Confess" means "say the same thing as." Here, it means we must say the same thing as God about Jesus—that He is God in the flesh and the Sacrifice sufficient for all our sin.*)

ROMANS 10:11-12. *For the scripture sayeth, whosoever believeth on him shall not be ashamed. For there is no difference between the Jew and the Greek; for the same Lord over all is rich unto all that call upon him.*

We are all on level ground, the same rules apply to everybody and anybody. Both Jews and Gentiles must come to Christ the same way; by grace through faith in Christ. There is no other way.

ROMANS 10:13-15a. *For whosoever shall call upon the name of the Lord shall be saved. How then shall they call upon 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? And how shall they preach unless they be sent?*

When we think of the word “saved,” we picture someone in dire circumstance who has no power to save themselves. They need to be rescued; they call out for help. Notice the words “**call**”, “**hear**”, “**preach**”, and “**sent**”. A person who is sinking in the sea of sin cries out for help, but they don’t know who to call to because they have not heard the good news that salvation is free. They don’t know because they have not had a preacher to teach them about God. A preacher has to be sent by God.

ROMANS 10:15b. As it is written: *How beautiful are the feet of them that preach the gospel of peace and bring glad tidings of good things!*

Preachers and Missionaries are blessings sent by God according to His mercy and grace.

ROMANS 10:17. *So then faith cometh by hearing, and hearing by the word of God*

God gives faith to those who hear the Word, and faith increases by studying the Word.

ROMANS 10:21. *But to Israel he saith, all day long I have stretched forth my hands unto a disobedient and gainsaying people.*

All through the Old Testament, God has favored Israel, but as a nation, they continually turned away from God, worshiped idols, and went the way of the world.

This lesson gives the plan of salvation in a very simple way: Believe in Jesus as the Son of God, confess Him with your mouth by saying what you believe about Jesus. Then walk in obedience with Him. A saved person should be baptized as a sign that the old life is dead and a new, eternal life has started.