

Parson to Person

ROMANS 10 PART 1

“Brethren, my heart’s desire and prayer to God for Israel is that they may be saved. For I bear them witness that they have a zeal for God, but not according to knowledge. For they being ignorant of God’s righteousness, and seeking to establish their own righteousness, have not submitted to the righteousness of God. For Christ is the end of the law for righteousness to everyone who believes.

For Moses writes about the righteousness which is of the law, ‘The man who does those things shall live by them.’ 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) or, ‘“Who will descend into the abyss?”’ (that is, to bring Christ up from the dead). 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): that 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. For with the heart one believes unto righteousness, and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation. For the Scripture says, ‘Whoever believes on Him will not be put to shame.’ For there is no distinction between Jew and Greek, for the same Lord over all is rich to all who call upon Him. For ‘whoever calls on the name of the LORD shall be saved.’

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? 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!’ But they have not all obeyed the gospel. For Isaiah says, ‘LORD, who has believed our report?’ So then faith comes by hearing, and hearing by the word of God. 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.’ 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.’ 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.’ But to Israel he says: ‘All day long I have stretched out My hands to a disobedient and contrary people’ ” (Romans 10:1–21 NKJV).

Paul has referenced the fact that God has not abandoned Israel (or the land of Israel) and has also documented that the Jewish nation has been “hardened” and “blinded” as the result of their earlier rebellions. This being the case, Paul also specifically pointed out that God has purposed to save a remnant of the Jews by divine revelation and election thus maintaining a witness to His saving power and mercy upon those who trust Him by faith. His divine and sovereign appointment was intended to point out that salvation is all of Him but moreover was to be understood by faith and granted by faith—thus by His work, not by the works of men.

In Chapter 10, Paul reemphasizes this fact when showing that the Jews who thought to be justified by works stumbled over Jesus when attempting to provide Him their own righteousness rather than receiving/accepting His righteousness as imputed to them by faith.

In Romans 9 we see God’s past dealing with Israel illustrated by references to specific incidents in their history but leading up to their present rejection of Jesus. In Chapter 10 Paul shows the Romans that righteousness is not of man, cannot be earned or maintained by men keeping the Law (as if any man could), that Christ Jesus has fulfilled the Law and has therefore been both its end goal and the one to abolish it, that Christ is very present to save those who believe, and must be proclaimed as Savior of Israel and the nations. For this reason, many theologians have suggested that Romans 9 through 11 document Israel’s past, present, and future.

As Paul began in Romans 9, he continues with emphasis in chapters 10 and 11: God has not abandoned Israel, has a plan for Israel, desires the salvation of Israel, and will indeed save Israel (for His name’s sake) in the future. This fact while clearly documented in Scripture nonetheless alludes far too many Christians and theologians—a mistake that must be corrected. Understanding God’s covenant with Israel and His faithfulness to them holds deep and consequential impact on the faith we as believers embrace—a faith, responded to by faith, through the power of the author of our faith, Who is faithful to His word and therefore His work.

I love you all,
Pastor Paul