

Romans – Chapter 10

Summary of Chapter 9

- *Paul loved Israel, but not all ‘Israel’ was the true ‘Israel’ (the people of God)*
- *God loved Israel and chose them to be the nation through which God would bless the world.*
 - *Like a potter with clay, God could choose how to mould the nation of Israel to use for his purposes.*
 - *But God could decide what to do with the clay (including making something new).*
- *God had promised in Hosea that He would create a new people of God (Gentiles) and in Isaiah that only a remnant of Israel would be saved.*
 - *Israel tried to be righteous, but they did not attain it.*
 - *They thought they could be right based on their good works.*

Chapter 10: Hearing, Believing, Confessing

Vs 1-4

- Paul desired and prayed that Israel might be saved
- Though Israel was zealous, they were ignorant of God’s righteousness (which comes not through merit, but through faith and Christ)

Vs 5-17

- If righteousness is based on faith, then how do we get faith?
 - By hearing the word that is preached to us (vs 5-8)
 - By confessing that Christ is Lord (9-10)
 - By believing that God raised Christ from the dead (9-16)

Vs 18-21

- So why hadn’t Israel been saved? It was because they were “*A disobedient and contrary people*”
- So, God would show Himself to people who did not ask for Him (the Gentiles)

Romans – Chapter 11a

Summary of Chapter 10

- Though Israel was zealous, they were ignorant of God's righteousness (which comes not through merit, but through faith and Christ)
- The '*Righteousness of Faith*' comes through
 - By hearing the word that is preached to us (vs 5-8)
 - By confessing that Christ is Lord (9-10)
 - By believing that God raised Christ from the dead (9-16)
- Why hadn't Israel been saved?
 - It was because they were "*A disobedient and contrary people*"
- So, God would show Himself to people who did not ask for Him (Gentiles)

Chapter 11a: Has God Cast Off His People?

Highlight: **Gentile** and **Israel**

Has God Rejected Israel? (1-6)

¹I ask, then, has God rejected his people? By no means! For I myself am an Israelite, a descendant of Abraham, a member of the tribe of Benjamin. ²God has not rejected his people whom he foreknew. Do you not know what the Scripture says of Elijah, how he appeals to God against Israel? ³"*Lord, they have killed your prophets, they have demolished your altars, and I alone am left, and they seek my life.*" ⁴But what is God's reply to him? "*I have kept for myself seven thousand men who have not bowed the knee to Baal.*" ⁵So too at the present time there is a remnant, chosen by grace. ⁶But if it is by grace, it is no longer on the basis of works; otherwise grace would no longer be grace.

Read 1 Samuel 12:22, Psalm 94:14 and Lamentations 3:31-33

God always promised not to reject His people. Why did Paul's explanation of the gospel (in Ch 1-10) make it now seem like God had rejected Israel?

Why is the example of Elijah relevant to Paul's point? Consider what he had previously said about "Only a remnant of them will be saved" (9:27).

Paul is asking about 'His [God's] People' (vs 1). According to Romans, who are God's true people (Read Romans 2:28-29; 4:19-21; 9:6-8)?

Israel Was Hardened (7-10)

⁷ What then? Israel failed to obtain what it was seeking. The elect obtained it, but the rest were hardened, ⁸ as it is written,

Isaiah 29:10 { "God gave them a spirit of stupor,
 eyes that would not see
Deut 29:4 { and ears that would not hear,
 down to this very day."

⁹ And David says,

Ps 69:22 { "Let their table become a snare and a trap,
 a stumbling block and a retribution for them;
 ¹⁰ let their eyes be darkened so that they cannot see,
 and bend their backs forever."

Paul quotes 3 OT passages to show that many Israelites through history had hard hearts. Read Isaiah 29:9-16. What caused the hardness of heart?

Israel Is Made Jealous (11-12)

¹¹ So I ask, did they stumble in order that they might fall? By no means! Rather, through their trespass salvation has come to the Gentiles, so as to make Israel jealous. ¹² Now if their trespass means riches for the world, and if their failure means riches for the Gentiles, how much more will their full inclusion mean!

Why does Paul wish that the Israelites could be jealous of the Gentile's salvation? Do people ever come to salvation due to jealousy?

A Word to the Gentiles (13-16)

¹³ Now I am speaking to you Gentiles. Inasmuch then as I am an apostle to the Gentiles, I magnify my ministry ¹⁴ in order somehow to make my fellow Jews jealous, and thus save some of them. ¹⁵ For if their rejection means the reconciliation of the world, what will their acceptance mean but life from the dead? ¹⁶ If the dough offered as firstfruits is holy, so is the whole lump, and if the root is holy, so are the branches.

Paul's work was always to be a preacher to the Gentiles (Acts 9:15, Romans 15:16, Galatians 1:16). Why would God have chosen Paul (a Jew, a Pharisee, a student of the law of Moses) to preach to the Gentiles? Wouldn't it have been more effective to send him to the Jews instead?

Questions

How would we summarise the first half of chapter 11?

What can I apply from what I have learnt? How does this passage change my choices and behaviour?

What is something I can pray for based on this text?