

Oakland International Fellowship Calvin Chiang

# Romans 9:30-10:15 Handout

The Importance of Sharing the Right Gospel

## The Right vs. Wrong Way to God (Romans 9:30-33)

***30 What shall we say then? That Gentiles, who did not pursue righteousness, attained righteousness, even the righteousness which is by faith; 31 but Israel, pursuing a law of righteousness, did not arrive at that law. 32 Why? Because they did not pursue it by faith, but as though it were by works. They stumbled over the stumbling stone, 33 just as it is written, “Behold, I lay in Zion a stone of stumbling and a rock of offense, and he who believes in Him will not be disappointed.”***

1. Approaching God through our works built on faith in ourselves will cause us to remain lost in sin.
   1. Israel tried to attain righteousness through the Law of Moses not by faith but by works. The problem with this approach is that it will always fall short.
   2. We are taught at a young age that success comes from “believing in yourself” and to have “self-confidence”. However Jesus teaches us the opposite in (Mark 8:34). Those who come to God by works are completely blind to their own sinfulness. (Isaiah 64:6)
2. Approaching God through our works will cause us to stumble over Christ.
3. The stone (v.32) is referring to Christ. It is a combination of verses from Isa 28:16 and Isa 8:14.
4. Paul shows that Christ is both the hope and salvation of those who trusts in Him and yet at the same time a rock of stumbling and stone of offense for those who take pride in their own good works.
5. The true gospel inherently offends and it confronts our sinful pride (1 Cor. 1:29). Those who believes in Him will not be disappointed.

**2. Paul’s Concern for Israel (Romans 10:1-4)**

***Brethren, my heart’s desire and my prayer to God for them is for their salvation. 2 For I testify about them that they have a zeal for God, but not in accordance with knowledge. 3 For not knowing about God’s righteousness and seeking to establish their own, they did not subject themselves to the righteousness of God. 4 For Christ is the end of the law for righteousness to everyone who believes.***

1. Israel missed out on salvation despite their zeal because it is not in accordance with knowledge (v.2).
2. Paul’s own personal testimony and experience shows how intensely a Jew can be in their concept of God. (Phil. 3:4-6)
3. Zeal without accurate wisdom and understanding has often been the source of many great tragedies.
4. Our current culture discourages us to believe in absolute truth but rather each person should determine their own truth.
5. Israel missed salvation because they do not know about God’s perfect righteousness so they seek to establish their own. (v.3).
6. The perfect imputed righteousness was revealed to them in Gen 15:6, but willfully ignored this but chose instead to take pride in keeping the law.
7. Jesus showed them that God looks at the heart instead. To be angry with your brother is to murder him and to lust after a woman in your heart is to commit adultery with her.

**3. How to Be Saved (Romans 10:5-10)**

***5 For Moses writes that the man who practices the righteousness which is based on law shall live by that righteousness 6 But the righteousness based on faith speaks as follows: “Do not say in your heart, ‘Who will ascend into heaven?’ (that is, to bring Christ down), 7 or ‘Who will descend into the abyss?’ (that is, to bring Christ up from the dead).” 8 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 are preaching, 9 that if you confess with your mouth Jesus as Lord, and believe in your heart that God raised Him from the dead, you will be saved; 10 for with the heart a person believes, resulting in righteousness, and with the mouth he confesses, resulting in salvation.***

1. To gain eternal life by keeping the law, you must obey it perfectly (v.5).
2. Truth is we have all repeatedly broken God’s law, both outwardly and on the heart level.
3. To be saved, you must recognize that you cannot save yourself by keeping God’s law. Rather it condemns you.
4. In order to be saved, you must accept what Christ has done for you is something that you can never do for yourself (v.6-8)
5. Righteousness of faith. Paul points out that the righteousness of Christ provides is a gift based on His finished work on the cross; it is not something that can be earned. Paul quotes from (Deut 30:12-14) to show that God does not ask for some great spiritual feat to receive this gift of righteousness. Just a simple and humble act of faith.
6. Simple action of first believing in the heart and then that heart belief finds outward expression in confession with our mouths and with our lives. (v.9-10)

**4. Good News for All (Romans 10:11-15)**

***11 For the Scripture says, “Whoever believes in Him will not be disappointed.” 12 For there is no distinction between Jew and Greek; for the same Lord is Lord of all, abounding in riches for all who call on Him; 13 for “Whoever will call on the name of the Lord will be saved.” 14 How then will they call on Him in whom they have not believed? How will they believe in Him whom they have not heard? And how will they hear without a preacher? 15 How will they preach unless they are sent? Just as it is written, “How beautiful are the feet of those who bring good news of good things!”***

1. The Gospel is “Good News” for all (v.11-13).
2. All people have the critical need to be saved before they die and face judgment. For all have sinned and fallen short of the glory of God (Rom. 3:23). All have the need to be reconciled to God.
3. The assurance that whoever believes in Him will not be disappointed (put to shame).
4. “The Good News” must be proclaimed (v.14-15)
5. We become the instruments of God’s grace.
6. Support our missionaries.

**Discussion Questions:**

1. Who is more difficult to reach with the gospel: a good person or a self-professing sinner? How should our approach differ with each of these types?
2. What are some biblical tests to determine if your zeal is godly or ungodly?
3. Can you think of 1-2 people in your life currently that you can share the “Good News” with?