

THIS WEEK'S MESSAGE

MAY 23RD, 2021 // BOOK OF ROMANS

ZEAL FOR GOD (ROMANS 10:1-5)

ARE WE SUBMITTED?

The people of Israel focused narrowly on the works the law demanded and missed the point to submit to Him in faith. The unbelief which characterized Israel in the past has persisted into the present.

- **Are we submitted or stumbling? Does God have unlimited access and say in every part of our lives?**

SUBMISSION TO CHRIST CHANGES EVERYTHING

Paul's deep grief (9:1-5) at their unbelief moves him to passionate prayer because he knows God is able to change hearts.

- Their unbelief (though they do not see it) causes Paul to be emotionally involved. **His mind is engaged and his heart is stirred.**
- **Our prayer lives reveal what truly lies in our head and our heart.**

ZEAL WITHOUT KNOWLEDGE

"I can testify about them that they have zeal for God, but not according to knowledge." As a result of their lack of knowledge, their zeal became misguided. Paul can relate (Acts 22:3, Gal. 1:13-14).

- Zeal with knowledge would mean **trusting Christ for righteousness, submitting all to Him, and sharing God's gospel out of love.**

GENERATION AFTER GENERATION

Paul quotes a lot from the OT. He wants the church at Rome to know that the Scriptures have been clear for generations about how to live in step with it.

- Israel was out of step due to their failure to believe, not God's failure to make it clear.
- They were narrowly focused on works and spiritually blind about righteousness.

"...END OF THE LAW FOR RIGHTEOUSNESS"

Christ's work enables faith as the way to righteousness instead of the law.

- From Romans 6:1-8:4, we hear that being "under the law" as a way of salvation has ended for the Christian.
- **We are to be obedient as a way to please and express gratitude** to our God who has saved us by grace.

EVERYONE WHO CALLS (ROMANS 10:6-13)

THE MESSAGE IS NEAR YOU

Through Christ being brought down to earth (Rom. 10:6) and His being brought up from the dead (Rom. 10:7), God has made righteousness readily available (Rom. 10:8).

- **God came down to a lost world through Christ.** Christ defeated death. **Have we received this into our hearts or has it just gone through our ears?**

THE MOUTH AND THE HEART

Confess with your mouth that Jesus is Lord, and believe in your heart that God raised Him and you will be saved. Belief and confession are like faith and works. **The truly saved will always show fruit of their new life in Christ.**

- Repentance, baptism, and being born again are part of the new life, but these things need to be done with genuine faith.

AVAILABLE FOR EVERYONE

Paul clearly teaches that all have sinned (Rom. 3:23), and that God's salvation should come to all (Rom. 3:22). He now teaches that there's no distinction how God saves.

- When people are truly saved, there should be **an act of surrendering every part of our lives to Christ. We will never regret trusting in Him instead of ourselves!**

HAVE WE TAKEN FOR GRANTED GOD'S GRACE?

The irony of this entire passage is that while the task was to get the Gentiles included in what Israel was given, now the tables have turned. It is Israel who needs to be included in what the Gentiles are accepting.

- **Have we taken for granted the gospel and the opportunity for a relationship with Jesus?**

SPIRITUAL PRIDE (ROMANS 10:14-21)

FACE TO FACE

The human voice was of practical value in spreading the gospel in the first century. Preaching is Paul's method of choice.

- We live in a media-rich world. The human voice is one that cracks with passion and the human eye shows tears of gratitude.
- **Hearing may not require face to face, but it always benefits from it.**

DID ISRAEL NOT HEAR?

Israel is in a state of unbelief by her own choice. Personal responsibility is part of the ministry of the gospel, both in delivering it and choosing whether or not to receive it.

- Is it possible that Israel did not hear – either in Isaiah's day, in Jesus' day, or in Paul's day? Of course they heard. **Spiritual pride is a personal responsibility.**

DID ISRAEL NOT UNDERSTAND?

Paul calls Moses and Isaiah to the witness stand for this question. Both show that Israel cannot claim an inability to understand.

- **If the Gentiles**, who have no spiritual background and training, and who neither seek after nor ask for God, **can understand God's good news, surely Israel could have!**

DISOBEDIENCE

Paul reveals that spiritual pride results in disobedience. Consistent disobedience was the issue of Israel up through Paul's day. **Paul's heart**, reflecting the heart of God, **was breaking over their unbelief.**

- **God continues to extend his grace to Israel** ("held out my hands") **and Israel continues to rebel** ("disobedient and defiant").

PERSONAL RESPONSIBILITY

- Do we think our "law" will save us as opposed to a personal relationship?
- We are responsible for how we respond to the gospel and what we do to share it.
- Everyone will answer to God for their own life. Christ followers must ensure that no one around us can say they haven't heard or understood.

THE PRODIGAL SON

- One son takes his position, privilege, and possession and heads out on his own.
- The father allowed the son to sink deeper and deeper until he had nothing.
- We can ask, along with Paul in Romans 11:1, "Did the father reject his son?" and answer just as Paul did: "By no means!"

THE FATHER'S LOVE

- The father in his wisdom, waited until the son's heart was softened; waited until he "came to his senses" (Luke 15:17). "The father saw him and was filled with compassion" (Luke 15:20).
- Do we believe if we return that God would be filled with compassion?
- Don't wait until we hit "rock bottom!"

DO WE HAVE OUTSTRETCHED HANDS?

- Do we stand, like God the Father and the father of the prodigal, with outstretched hands to a lost world?
- Are we praying and dreaming about the salvation of a spouse, a loved one, a neighbor, a coworker, or an unreached people group?

OPPORTUNITIES

- If not, we have become proud of where we stand, and too good to reach out to those who do not know the love of the Father.
- Do I see my errands, my trips, my day-to-day life as opportunities to deliver the gospel to those who have not heard or understood? Or are we too busy and self-centered?