

GOD'S GLORIOUS GOSPEL**Romans, chapter 10****The Gospel: You Will Be Saved****I | CONTEXT AND CONNECTIONS**

1 / As we introduced in our last lesson on **chapter 9**, Paul is laying out a rather detailed plan that God has to save His elect people from both Jews and Gentiles. Even in **chapter 1**, Paul has been emphasizing that Jesus Christ has made him an apostle to the Gentiles especially. He is not excluding Jews from his Gospel outreach—and neither is God. **For I am not ashamed of the Gospel, for it is the power of God for salvation to everyone who believes, to the Jew first and also to the Greek [Gentiles] (ch 1.16).** However, since the death, burial, and resurrection of Jesus Christ—and the issuing of the Great Commission / Missions Mandate—the Gospel has been freely proclaimed to the Gentiles also, and many have believed. This has been God's eternal purpose from the beginning.

2 / So, the question Paul is answering here in **Romans, chapters 9-11**, is: *"But what about the Jews? Didn't God make His covenant promises with them and to them? Has God now abandoned them? Does God have no more covenant plans for those who have been His chosen covenant people from the days of our father Abraham?"* [NOTE: in fact, **ch 11.1** will open with this very question: **"I ask, then, has God rejected His people? By no means?"** But, we'll get to that question next week...]

3 / And, more, Paul ends **chapter 8** with his rousing crescendo of God's faithfulness to all His covenant promises to those who believe the Gospel and are in Christ. Which again will make the ethnic Jewish people wonder: *"But He made covenant promises to us, too! Has He broken those promises? Has God given up on ethnic Jews / 'Israelites according to the flesh'?"* Paul is proclaiming here in **chapters 9-11**: *"No! God has not given up on His elect from among the ethnic Jews/Israelites! But, they will be saved and brought into the people of God on equal grounds with Gentiles—when they, too, believe the Gospel of Christ—by faith in Christ!"* So that is what may be an over-simplified summary of Paul's argument here in chapters 9-11.

4 / So, as we learned in **chapter 9**, Paul makes these simple statements about how God has saved His people through faith in Him from the beginning—and especially in His covenant relationships and promises in the Old Testament:

[1] **9.1-5: God revealed Himself to His covenant nation people, Israel, gave them His promises, and promised to send His Messiah/Savior/Redeemer through them—and He did!**

[2] **9.6-18: God has always reserved to Himself the right and prerogative to choose whom He will save:** He chose Israel from among all the other nations to be His elect nation; He chose Abraham from among all the other unbelieving idolaters in the world to reveal Himself to him—and justify him by his faith in Yahweh; He chose Isaac over Ishmael to be His promised covenant-bearer; He chose Jacob over Esau in the next generation to be His covenant-bearer; God chose Israel over Egypt to save them, and He hardened Pharaoh's heart against Him and Israel for the very purpose of showing His power and mercy.

[3] **9.19-30: As our sovereign Creator, God has the same sovereign rights, power, and prerogative as a clay potter does: to show His mercy to whom He wills and chooses to show it—**recognizing all the while, that if God did not show mercy to those whom He had chosen, ***no one would be saved!*** He can show His mercy and call those to salvation who before were not considered to His people.

5 / **AND [and we must not overlook this!]**—those who had historically known Him in all His Glory ... when Christ did come in fulfillment of all of God's faithful promises, *they rejected Him! The Christ whom God had chosen to be the Cornerstone of their faith and salvation became instead a stumbling stone* ... and their unbelief crushed them.

6 / So, now here in **chapter 10**, Paul will expand on the theme of: **Christ has always been the heart of the Gospel—even in the Old Testament message of faith.** Of course, now in the Gospel, Christ is explicitly revealed. But, even in the OT, Christ was implicit in all the promises, prophecies, offerings, sacrifices, and services. Here in **chapter 9**, Paul will explain how Christ was present in the OT. But, the sad reality among ethnic Israel in both OT and when Christ came is: *they had rejected the Gospel both then and now!* So, in **chapters 10-11**, Paul will proclaim God's plan of Grace to woo them back!

II | vv 1-4 | “...that they may be saved...”

1 / Paul’s heart is broken for his fellow ethnic Israelites as he explains in **ch 9.3-4**. As a people and nation, Jewish Israel had forsaken Yahweh all throughout their covenant relationship with Him—even from the days when He immediately delivered them from bondage and slavery to hard-hearted Pharaoh. Then, when Christ came, they delivered Him over the Romans and had Him crucified. However, Paul is not giving up on them, and—as we will discover in **chapter 11**—neither is God. In the future, God will bring them en masse to the faith in Christ and His Gospel. But it is not so in Paul’s day, nor yet in ours.

2 / Paul also instructs us how we should care for any and all whom we want to be saved—whether they are Jews or Gentiles: **he prays to God for their salvation—and so must we!** It is through our asking in prayer that God fulfills all His covenant promises of faith and salvation.

3 / **The reason why they are lost is the primary theme and message of this letter: they are not submitting to the righteousness of God by faith in Jesus Christ.** They are **ignorant of the righteousness of God**. Not like the Gentile nations to whom God had not revealed Himself. The Jews, as an ethnic people, were **ignorant of the righteousness of God** because they continued to insist that they could **establish their own righteousness** by practicing the ordinances of the Law God had given them to show them their need of a Savior and to lead them to Christ—both in Gospel principle taught in the Law and in time.

4 / **For Christ is the end of the law for righteousness to everyone who believes.** He is in at least these two ways: [1] *All the Law was pointing to Christ and leading to Christ who would perfectly keep it and fulfill it; and [2] Christ DID perfectly keep and fulfill every jot and tittle of the Law—and He was the only Man ever to do so.* And He did so to become the Substitute and Savior for everyone who could not keep it, but for **everyone who believes!** This is the Gospel message of Romans.

III | vv 5-13 | “...everyone who calls on the Name of the LORD will be saved”

1 / What Paul will do now is go back to the Law the ethnic Jewish people thought they were keeping to **establish their own righteousness** before God. Note how Paul distinguishes between **the righteousness that is based on the law** and **the righteousness based on faith**. Paul quotes here from **Deuteronomy 30.11-14**. The case could be made that *IF* anyone could have kept the Law [which no one could or did], they would have lived before God—that is, be righteous and justified. BUT, even in that **Deuteronomy** Scripture, God commands them to believe in His covenant promise of a Savior and Redeemer **in your heart**—which they would not. The whole point of the **Deuteronomy** message in **vv 5-8** is that *God did not make salvation inaccessible to Israel. They didn’t have to ‘ascend into Heaven’ or ‘descend into the abyss’ to bring the message of salvation to them. God told them that His message of salvation was to confess Him as their Sovereign God, repent of their sins as instructed in the Law, and believe in their hearts that God would forgive them and save them by the merits of the sacrificial offerings He had prescribed.* Paul even says that the message of **Deuteronomy 30.11-14** is **just this: “the word of faith that we proclaim.”** That is where ethnic / national Israel failed. They thought in their self-righteous arrogance that they could go through whatever motions they chose to go through and practice whatever degree of religious service they thought God should accept from them—and God was obligated to save them because they were the legacy chosen people of God.

2 / Paul says **NO!** You must believe in your heart that God will save you through faith in the Savior He has chosen and appointed to be your Savior—and that is Christ and His Gospel! And so, even to his fellow Israelites according to the flesh, Paul pleads: **“...because if you confess with your mouth that Jesus is Lord [which they had not] and believe in your heart that God raised Him from the dead which they had not by rejecting Christ and His Gospel], you will be saved—which they would be if they did! For with the heart one believes and is justified, and with the mouth one confesses and is saved”** THIS is what Paul prays to God they will believe with their hearts instead of still trying to establish their own righteousness before God by their own religious efforts. *What we also hear in this message is echoes from Peter’s sermon on the Day of Pentecost in Acts 2.*

3 / Paul quotes again from **Isaiah 28.16** and other OT Scriptures, where God promises OT Israel over and over that *if only they believe Him and trust Him and His righteousness by faith, they will be saved without fail and without exception*. For the Scripture says, “**Everyone who believes in Him will not be put to shame. For there is no distinction between Jew and Greek; for the same Lord is Lord of all, bestowing His riches on all who call on Him. For “everyone who calls on the Name of The LORD will be saved”**” quoting now from **Joel 2.32**.

4 / So, the bottom line of what Paul has proclaimed here—quoting from their own history and OT Scriptures—is that God has always saved, in OT and NT times alike, the same way: through heart-given faith in His promises of righteousness and salvation. And what had been formerly preached to the OT ethnic Jewish people is the message that is now being preached to the whole world of nations: **call on the Name of the Lord according to His Gospel—and you will be saved!**

IV | vv 14-17 | “Faith comes from hearing, and hearing through the Word of Christ”

1 / This next passage from **vv 14-17** reveals how Yahweh had faithfully sent His word to OT Israel. There is a progression of knowledge from God, the Author of the Gospel, to our hearts of faith, and our response in **calling on the Name of the Lord**.

[1] You must believe on Him before you can call on Him

[2] You must hear from Him before you can believe in Him

[3] Someone must come and preach His Gospel before you can hear from Him

[4] Someone must be sent by God to before they come to you

2 / BUT, God has done all this! Quoting now from **Isaiah 52.7** and **Nahum 1.15**, Paul recites what God has declared all along: **As it is written, “How beautiful are the feet of those who preach the Good News!** God has not—never in any of their ages or generations—left them without a clear witness to His Gospel. He sent His prophets to them—continuously, persistently, and insistently—to call Israel to repentance, to return to Him, and to receive and believe in their hearts that He would save them.

3 / BUT NOW, Paul comes to the present historical reality: **But they have not all obeyed the Gospel**. He is speaking of the ethnic Israelite people as a whole. They were hard-hearted against God’s overtures of Grace during all their OT generations, and NOW they were still hard-hearted against His Gospel He had sent them in His Son, Jesus Christ. Isaiah lamented in his day, “**Lord, who has believed what he has heard from us?**” [**Isaiah 53.1**]. And you will recognize **Isaiah 53** as being one of the most prophetic portrayals and promises of Christ who would come to be our Savior. *But they didn’t receive it and believe it in Isaiah’s day—and Paul is lamenting that ethnic Israel in his day [and still to our present day] had not believed what he has heard from us!* Paul laments the same for his contemporary fellow Israelites according to the flesh.

4 / But then, the clincher/pivot of this whole message is in **v 17: So faith comes from hearing, and hearing through the Word of Christ**. This ‘word of Christ’ is the Gospel—the message of *becoming the righteousness of God through faith in Jesus Christ!* There is only one Gospel—and one Savior—and one way to receive His salvation—through hearing His Gospel, receiving and believing it in your heart of faith, and calling on Him to save you *through faith in Christ!* THAT is the Gospel—and THAT is the message of this Romans letter.

V | vv 18-21 | “I will make you jealous of those who are not a nation”

1 / Here again, Paul quotes from their Scriptures four more times to make the case that Israel *had indeed heard the Word of the Gospel of faith from Yahweh from the beginning of their history as the ethnic nation and covenant people of God*. BUT, they had also rejected, disobeyed, and rebelled against Yahweh’s calls to faith in Him. Paul begins in v 18 with this question: **But I ask, have they not heard? Indeed they have for “Their voice has gone out to all the earth, and their words to the ends of the world.”** This is a quote from **Psalms 19.4**. The ‘voice’ and the ‘words’ are the testimonies to God’s glory in the physical creation. But then, David compares the voice and words of the physical creation with the Word of God. The creation, as a testimony to God’s glory, is such that it renders every inhabitant of the world and witness of the creation **without excuse** for being ignorant of God’s glory [**ch 1.20**]. Of course, Israel had ‘heard’

not only this word, but they had received the very words of God's personal revelation of His glory and His saving Grace. So, this means, Israel had 'heard' the Gospel in the natural revelation, the special revelation of the Law—and in the incarnation revelation in Christ Himself. *And they had rejected them all!* He will end **ch 10** with this scathing all-history-encompassing indictment!

2 / Paul asks another question: **But I ask, did Israel not understand?** That is, when they heard the words of God's glory and grace through all the means God had spoken to them, **did they understand and appreciate what they were hearing, and what a privilege it was to hear from God this way?** Evidently, they did not. Because they, too, repeatedly: **Although they knew God, they did not honor Him as God or give thanks to Him, but they ... exchanged the glory of the immortal God for images resembling mortal man and birds and animals and creeping things [ch 1.21-23].** And they did this all throughout their national and ethnic history, beginning with the golden calf Aaron made for them immediately after coming out of Egypt. So, what does Yahweh say He will do to them in return? Here is where Paul quotes Moses again from **Deuteronomy 32.21: I will make you jealous of those who are not a nation, with a foolish people I will make you angry.** If you want to get the full force of the context of this Scripture, let's read that whole verse from Deuteronomy: **"They have made me jealous with what is no god; they have provoked me to anger with their idols. So I will make them jealous with those who are no people; I will provoke them to anger with a foolish nation."** Then bring that whole verse back to **Romans 10**, and what Paul is saying is: *You have made God jealous of the love and worship that belongs to Him—but you have rejected Him and given your love and worship to other gods...or in your case, you have made a god out of your own righteousness. So, I'm going to do to you as you have done to me—I'm going to give my mercy, love, and grace to a people and nation that up till now was not a people—the Gentiles. And when you see me loving and saving the Gentiles, you will come back to me out of your jealousy for my covenant love which you once enjoyed all to yourselves!* Paul will return again to this 'jealousy' theme in **ch 11.13-14**. But he introduces it here—as if God is giving Israel at this time the 'cold shoulder' and 'silent treatment' to make them jealous of His mercies toward Gentiles. As Paul says in **Acts 28.28: Therefore let it be known to you that this salvation of God has been sent to the Gentiles; they will listen.**

3 / The third quote is from **Isaiah 65.1-2**, reiterating the same theme: **Then Isaiah is so bold as to say, "I have been found by those who did not seek me; I have shown myself to those who did not ask for me."** This is the same message Paul has already proclaimed back in **ch 9.30-33**. During the OT times, the Gentiles were excluded from all the privileges God had afforded to Israel [see **Ephesians 2.11-12**]. But now, God is including Gentiles in His **purpose of election [9.11]** and saving them—including them in His chosen people and nation. And, as will see in **ch 11**, God is 'grafting them in' to His elect people and chosen nation—making them equal and fellow-heirs with the believing Israelites.

4 / Paul concludes this chapter about believing God's promises with your whole heart; and being saved by faith in the Gospel of the finished work of Jesus Christ to make us righteous before God; and calling upon the Name of the Lord in faith to be saved—Paul concludes by making this indicting statement about Israel, quoting from **Isaiah 65.2: But of Israel He says, "All day long I have held out my hands to a disobedient and contrary people."** Israel had spurned every overture of saving mercy and grace God had made to them over all of their history of unbelief and rebellion. What we read here in Isaiah is a prequel to Jesus' appeal to Israel on the eve of their crucifying Him: **O Jerusalem, Jerusalem, the city that kills the prophets and stones those who are sent to it! How often would I have gathered your children together as a hen gathers her brood under her wings, and you were not willing! [Matthew 23.37].**

5 / Paul sees that desolation coming upon his beloved ethnic people and fellow-countrymen, and he mourns and weeps over them—and *prays that they may be saved!* And, as we will discover in our next lesson from **ch 11**, God has indeed chosen many of them to salvation—and they will be saved in a time yet to come! We long and eagerly wait for that day, and we evangelize Jews along with all the other nations **to believe the Gospel of Christ—the power of God for salvation to everyone who believes, to the Jew first and also to the Greek!**