

THE FAILURE OF ISRAEL (Romans 10:1-21)

I. They failed to follow God's righteousness (vs. 1-3).

- A. Paul loved his physical brethren deeply and wanted them to be saved, so much so that he prayed about it to God.
 - 1. He had a longing for them to be like him.
 - 2. The word "desire" carries the idea of being pleasing.
- B. He recognized a religious zeal on their part.
 - 1. The word "zeal" means imitation of that which is thought to be excellent.
 - 2. There was a zeal for God on their part, or at least for the Law of Moses, which they equated with God.
 - 3. Even in that, they had perverted it with all of the traditions they had bound to keeping the Law.
- C. Sadly, their desire to emulate that which is excellent was not based on knowledge of God.
 - 1. It was misplaced because it was not God's plan for righteousness now.
 - 2. Rather, they were going about trying to be righteous on their own, which is impossible.
 - 3. They refused to submit to faith in Christ in order to be made righteous.
- D. Anytime we go away from God's plan for making one righteous in Christ, we are doing what the Jews did.

II. They failed to see Christ as the end of the Law (vs. 4-8).

- A. Jesus fulfilled the Mosaic Law, finishing it, nailing it to His cross and unbelieving Jews failed to see this.
 - 1. It is in Christ alone that one can now be made righteous.
 - 2. It has nothing to do with keeping the Mosaic Law.
 - 3. In fact, the Law should have lead them to Christ.
- B. The only way to be righteous under the Old Law was to have kept it perfectly and only one ever did that, Jesus, the one in whom they refused to believe.
 - 1. Paul points this out from the Old Law, quoting Leviticus 18:5.
 - 2. Moses' law didn't make a provision for making one righteous after he had sinned, it only reminded that one of his sin.
- C. Paul then uses Deuteronomy 30:11-13 to make a spiritual point.
 - 1. In that context, Moses let them know they didn't have to go anywhere to get the Law, God had given it to them.
 - 2. Paul used it to show that they didn't have to go get Jesus from heaven or raise Him from the dead to get God's message, it had been delivered to them.
- D. Notice that God's righteousness is here mentioned as the word of faith.
 - 1. Only obedience to the gospel makes one righteous.
 - 2. This word of faith contains all that is necessary to make one

righteous.

E. Their failure to see Jesus in this light caused them to be lost.

III. They failed to believe and confess Christ (vs. 9-10).

A. The word of faith that reveals Jesus as the end of the Law commands one to believe and confess faith in Christ in order to be saved.

B. Since they did not see Jesus as the end of the Law they refused to do this.

C. We are to make a confession of faith in Jesus with our mouths and we will do this when we believe that Jesus was raised from the dead.

1. Back in chapter 1, Paul mentioned that His resurrection showed who He was, the Son of God.

2. If we believe that, we will confess that He is the Son of God.

D. We believe, then we confess.

1. Notice the word, "unto."

2. It is the same Greek word as in Acts 2:38.

3. There is not one denominational writer who has ever stated that one believes and confesses in order to show they've already been saved.

E. As he will state, this is not all one must do, but these are two vital steps and the Jews failure to take them caused them to be lost.

IV. They failed to call on the name of Jesus (vs. 11-15).

A. Paul starts this section quoting Isaiah 28:16 - we will never be disappointed when one fully believes in Jesus.

B. Paul then lets his readers know who the "whosoever" of verse 11 is - it is Jew and Gentile.

1. God is over all and has opened salvation to all.

2. God is able to save all that call on Him.

C. Paul here quotes from Joel 2, and is the same passage the apostles referenced in the beginning of their sermon on Pentecost.

1. Here is where we see that there is more than belief and confession necessary for salvation.

2. In Acts 2, those people were told to call on the name of the Lord.

3. When they cried out asking what they needed to do, they were told to repent and be baptized.

4. There is no reference to any sinner's prayer.

D. You can't call on Jesus if you don't believe in Him; you can't believe in Him if you haven't heard about Him; you couldn't hear then without a preacher; and one had to be sent to preach.

1. Thankfully, the Lord had sent men, apostles, which means "one sent."

2. Paul then quoted Isaiah 52:7 to commend those that preach the gospel.

3. We are to preach the word today as well.

E. Sadly, those that hear do not all obey, even as they did not in Isaiah's day, the reference here being Isaiah 53:1.

V. They failed to have faith in God's word (vs. 16-21).

A. Paul starts this section by quoting Isaiah 53:1, letting his readers know

that some refused to believe.

- B. They did not have faith because they refused to believe God's word, the source of faith.
- C. What they refused to believe is this gospel message.
- D. It was a message that both Moses and the prophets told them was coming and that they would reject it.
 - 1. Paul quoted Deuteronomy 32:21.
 - 2. He then quoted Isaiah 65:1.
- E. They had the opportunity to hear and to obey God's message, but they wouldn't because of their racial prejudice and false teaching concerning the Messiah.
- F. God wanted the Jews to be saved but they rejected Him because as He said through Isaiah in 65:2, they were a disobedient and gainsaying people, or those that spoke against Him.
- G. The Jews failed to have faith in the word they claimed to follow and it caused them to be lost.