

Romans Lesson 13 Articles

What shall we say about the Gentiles? (vv. 30–33)

Here is the paradox of history: the Jews tried to be righteous and were rejected; the Gentiles, who did not have the privileges the Jews had, were received! The reason is because the Jews tried to attain righteousness by works, while the Gentiles received righteousness by faith through the grace of God. The Jews stumbled over a crucified Messiah (see Isa. 8:14; 28:16; Matt. 21:42; 1 Cor. 1:23; and 1 Peter 2:6–8). They wanted a Messiah who would lead the nation to political freedom and glory; they could not believe in a crucified Christ.

Paul's purpose in this chapter is to explain Israel's position in the plan of God. Israel was an elect nation, given privileges that no other nation had; yet it failed miserably to follow God's program of blessing for the world. The entire chapter exalts the sovereign grace of God without minimizing the responsibility of men and women for making right decisions. God's Word will prevail regardless of human disobedience; but disobedient sinners will miss the blessing. No human mind can fathom or explain the wisdom of God (see 11:33–36), but this we know: without the sovereign grace of God, there would be no salvation.¹

For I can testify about them that they are zealous for God, but their zeal is not based on knowledge (verse 2). There is a certain sense in which this verse is terrifying. Paul is describing people who are under the judgment of God, and yet have a zeal for God. The problem with their zeal for God was that it was based on bad theology. Israel neglected the truth of God and were slothful and indolent with respect to their study of the things of God.

Since they did not know the righteousness that comes from God and sought to establish their own, they did not submit to God's righteousness (verse 3). God did not accept the Israelites because they put their faith in their own law-keeping, and not in the Saviour. But **Christ is the end of the law so that there may be righteousness for everyone who believes** (verse 4). The law which itself reveals the pattern of good works should drive us to Christ. Christ is the point of the law; Christ is the goal of the law; Christ is the meaning of the law. So if you try to follow and obey the law, but avoid Christ, you have missed the whole point of the law.²

10:11, 13 — For the Scripture says, "Whoever believes on Him will not be put to shame." ... For "whoever calls on the name of the LORD shall be saved."

God never offers salvation to someone and then pulls the rug out from under him when he tries to accept the gracious offer. *Anyone* who puts his faith in Christ *will* be saved and *will* receive eternal life.

10:17 — So then faith comes by hearing, and hearing by the word of God.

Everything that we need to know in regard to salvation—what it is, why we need it, how we can receive it—can be found in God's Word. God blesses us when we hear His promises and respond in faith to them.³

¹ Wiersbe, W. W. (1992). *Wiersbe's expository outlines on the New Testament* (p. 393). Wheaton, IL: Victor Books.

² Sproul, R. C. (1994). *The Gospel of God: An Exposition of Romans* (pp. 177–178). Great Britain: Christian Focus Publications.

³ Stanley, C. F. (2005). *The Charles F. Stanley life principles Bible: New King James Version* (Ro 10:11–17). Nashville, TN: Nelson Bibles.