

# The Book of Romans

## LESSON TEN

### “Israel’s Rejection of the Gospel of Salvation”

In chapter nine, Paul emphasized God’s sovereignty. Here in chapter ten, he emphasizes man’s responsibility. When we marry these two chapters together, we see two important truths. Both are solid truths and one does not negate the other. These two chapters show how important it is that we must look at the whole Word of God and allow Scripture to interpret Scripture, rather than building a doctrine on one portion that ignores the rest of what Scripture has to say.

Prayerfully read through chapter ten of Romans.

- 1) Paul declared at the end of chapter nine that the nation of Israel had **stumbled** on the stumbling stone of Christ. However, after making that declaration, he opens this chapter wanting his readers to understand his heart for his fellow countrymen. What does he express to them in this first verse of chapter ten?
- 2) In **verse 2**, Paul acknowledges that Israel has a **zeal** for God. What does he say that their zeal is **lacking**?
- 3) We can see many Christians that fit that description as well. They have a zeal for the things of God, but they are lacking in knowledge. The Jews knew the **letter** of the law, but didn’t understand the **spirit** of the law or the **purpose** of the law. What does Paul state was the result of that lack of knowledge and understanding in **verse 3**?

- 4) A lack of knowledge and understanding wasn't their only problem. Establishing their own ideas of righteousness wasn't their only problem. Look again at the last part of **verse 3** and record what else Paul says they failed to do.
- 5) We can see so much evidence of this today in many people's lives who claim to be Christians. Can you give some examples that you've personally observed? Share those examples below.
- 6) The Jews were so focused on the **letter** of the law that they had no understanding of the **spirit** of the law and they completely missed the whole **purpose** of the law. What do the following Scriptures say about this?

**Regarding the spirit of the law:**

**Matthew 23:23 -**

**Matthew 23:28 -**

**Hosea 6:6 -**

**Micah 6:8 -**

**Regarding the purpose of the law:**

**Galatians 3:11 -**

**Galatians 3:19 -**

**Galatians 3:22-24 -**

- 7) What does Paul conclude, according to **Romans 10:4**?
- 8) The law's purpose was to **show us God's holy standard, to reveal to us our inability to keep that standard, and to confirm to us our need of a Savior.** Once we've come to faith in Christ and have placed our trust in His gift of salvation, that purpose has been fulfilled. This does not mean that the righteousness of the law is negated, though. What does Paul state about the law in **verse 5**?
- 9) The **NLT** reads, "**For Moses writes that the law's way of making a person right with God requires obedience to all of its commands.**" The problem, of course, is that we **aren't able to be 100 percent obedient** to all its commands because of the weakness of our flesh. Therefore, we needed a remedy. That remedy came by way of God fulfilling the requirements of the law for us and placing our faith in what He has accomplished for us with His sacrificial death on the cross. What does Paul state about the way of faith in **verses 6 & 7**?

- 10) These verses may be a bit confusing when we read them, but **David Guzik's** simple and clear explanation is that, **“It is not as if we have to ascend into heaven or descend into the abyss to gain Jesus. We believe and receive.”** Paul further explains the way to salvation in **verses 8 & 9**. Write down those verses below.
- 11) We don't have to reach to the sky and dig deep in the ground to find the gift of salvation Christ offers to us. It is **very near**. Paul states it is in **your mouth** and in **your heart**. How does he explain this in **verse 10**?
- 12) **Confession** --- Looking back at the first half of **verse 9**, what does Paul say we need to **confess**?

To **confess** means that **we agree** that Jesus is who He has claimed to be and who God the Father has claimed Him to be: the Christ, the Messiah, our Savior, the only way to the Father, and the only way to be saved from God's wrath through His sacrificial death on our behalf.

We are confessing His **Lordship**. The word is **kurios**. **William Barclay** states: **“If a man called Jesus *kurios* he was ranking him with the Emperor and with God; he was giving him the supreme place in his life; he was pledging him implicit obedience and reverent worship.”**

Bible Scholar **Kenneth Wuest** adds, **“No Jew would do this who had not really trusted Christ, for *Kurios* in the LXX is used of God. No Gentile would do it who had not ceased worshipping the emperor as *Kurios*. The word *Kurios* was and is the touchstone of faith.”**

- 13) Looking again at the last half of **verse 9**, what does Paul say we need to **believe**?

To **believe in your heart** is more than just an intellectual knowledge. It is an assurance that is **trusting** in what God did for us that extends to us the gift of salvation. There are many who might say that they believe Jesus is God's Son, that He died and even rose from the dead, who still have not placed their trust in Him for salvation. It is not an acknowledgement of the mind, but a trusting belief in the heart.

- 14) As Paul continues, what does he say in **verse 11**? Record his words below.

Charles Spurgeon comments, **"We believe everything which the Lord Jesus has taught, but we must go a step further, and trust him. It is not even enough to believe in him, as being the Son of God, and the anointed of the Lord; but we must believe on him... The faith that saves is not believing certain truths, nor even believing that Jesus is a Savior; but it is resting on him, depending on him, lying with all your weight on Christ as the foundation of your hope."**

David Guzik states further, **"These two together (belief and confession) result in righteousness and salvation. We should not ignore how scandalously simple this is (whoever calls upon the name of the LORD shall be saved) and what an affront this is to every attempt of the flesh to be justified or any attempt to find salvation based on national or ethnic foundation."** (This is something that the Jews relied on.)

- 15) What statement does Paul clearly make in **verse 12** regarding our salvation?
- 16) This brings us to **verse 13**, where Paul concludes his argument with this statement. What does he say?

Here is where **man's responsibility** comes into play. Salvation is offered to all, but man must **receive the gift** by **"calling on the name of the Lord."** David Guzik states, **"From Romans 9 alone we might think that salvation is God's doing alone, but from Romans 10 we might think that salvation is man's doing alone - together we see the matter from each perspective."**

- 17)** Paul moves on to the responsibility we, as Christians, share in the process of salvation. Record Paul's words in **verses 14 & 15.**

The **Bible Knowledge Commentary** states, **"Carrying God's gracious offer involves human beings whom God has brought to Himself and then uses as His heralds. They share God's message of salvation because He will save everyone who calls on His name."**

- 18)** Paul has emphasized the responsibility of man, who must call on the name of the Lord, but here, he emphasizes the responsibility of His followers to proclaim the Gospel so that those who hear it have the opportunity to believe and make a confession of faith. The beautiful quotes Paul uses in **verse 15** are from **Isaiah 52:7**. How do the following Scriptures confirm our responsibility to proclaim the Gospel message that has brought us to salvation? Look up and record these verses below.

**John 20:21 -**

**2 Corinthians 5:19 & 20 -**

**Ephesians 6:14 & 15 -**

- 19) Looking now at **Romans 10:16** Paul returns his focus to human responsibility pertaining to salvation. What does Paul say in this verse?
- 20) Paul states clearly in **verse 17** the point he made in **verses 14 & 15**, that **“faith comes by hearing, and hearing by the Word of God.”** However, in the next verse he asks a question. Record Paul’s question and his answer to that question in **verse 18**.

**David Guzik** states, **“Saving faith comes through hearing by the word of God. Though Israel heard, they did not exercise saving faith in Christ - making them (and us) all the more responsible.”**

Paul is addressing unbelieving Israel in this verse and in the following verses. His statement that *God’s Word (referring to the Gospel)* had gone out to “all the earth” and to the “ends of the world” is believed to be referring to the known world to Israel, primarily the Graeco-Roman Empire. Paul’s point is simply that the Jews had heard, and chose not to believe. **Adam Clarke** states, **“..... there is scarcely a place in the Roman empire in which the doctrine of Christ crucified has not been heard: if, therefore, the Jews have not believed, the fault is entirely their own; as God has amply furnished them with the means of faith of salvation.”**

- 21) Paul goes on to prove that, not only had the Gospel been preached to them, but that Moses had foretold of Christ, the Messiah, and of their rejection and God’s plan to turn to the Gentiles to make them jealous and to draw the Gentiles to Himself. Record his words in **Romans 10:19 & 20**.

- 22)** God had warned Israel, both through Moses and through Isaiah, that their rejection would result in Him reaching out to those who had not been seeking Him and drawing them close to Him. But Israel chose not to heed God's warning, which made them even more accountable for their rejection of their Messiah and His gift of salvation. Look up and record these warnings God had given to Israel in the Scriptures below.

**Deuteronomy 32:21 -**

**Isaiah 65:1 -**

- 23)** Paul concludes this chapter with his words in **Romans 10:21**. Record his words in this verse.
- 24)** Paul emphasizes how God "stretched out His hands to a disobedient and contrary people." Scripture could not be more clear regarding man's accountability and responsibility. The fact that man has been given a free will is confirmed fully in His Word. Look up Jesus' words in **Matthew 23:37** and record them below.

- 25)** Share what truths spoke most to your heart in your study of Romans, chapter ten.

This study was written and prepared by Shawn Van Hook, 2026