

Title: Pledge Allegiance to the King of Salvation

Passage: Romans 9:30 - 10:4

Summary:

Key Questions:

1. What shall we say then? (9:30-31)
2. Why shall we say it? (9:32-33)
3. How shall we pray? (10:1-4)

Key Truths:

- Who reveals the righteousness of God? God. By whose power? God's power. How does God demonstrate His power? From faith, for faith, to faith. (Romans 1:16-17)
- Christians are often tempted to shortcut their faith by looking at their own faith for assurance. But ingrown spirituality is a dead-end. Truth: Look to Christ. Assurance arises from Christ alone.
 - Otherwise: when look to self, then one merely looks to self-righteousness and self-work, which does not need to salvation.
- Religion makes God less than who He really is. Religion makes man greater than who he really is.
- True righteousness is in Christ and in Christ alone.

Possible Discussion Questions:

- What point(s) in the sermon did the Lord most impress upon you?
- How can a person have great zeal for God or religious activities and yet be misguided?
- What provides you with assurance as you endeavor to walk forward with God?
- How does God's sovereignty affect or govern your prayers for others? Who are you praying for or who need your prayers?
- What next steps will you take in response to the truths you have been exposed to?

Introduction/Context of Passage

“What shall we say then?”

- Paul's repeated phrase.
 - He asks question and follows with a Biblical truth.

Romans 9:14

“What shall we say then? Is there any unrighteousness with God? May it never be!”

Jonah 4:2

And he prayed to the LORD and said, “O LORD, is not this what I said when I was yet in my country? That is why I made haste to flee to Tarshish; for I knew that you are a gracious God and merciful, slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love, and relenting from disaster.

Exodus 34:6

The LORD passed before him and proclaimed, “The LORD, the LORD, a God merciful and gracious, slow to anger, and abounding in steadfast love and faithfulness,

How does belief/faith respond to sovereignty?

- We pledge allegiance to the king of salvation.
- God is right to save Whom He will.

Passage:

Romans 9:30–10:4 (LSB)

“What shall we say then? That Gentiles, who did not pursue righteousness, laid hold of righteousness, even the righteousness which is by faith; but Israel, pursuing a law of righteousness, did not attain that law. Why? Because they did not pursue it by faith, but as though it were by works. They stumbled over the stumbling stone, just as it is written, “BEHOLD, I AM LAYING IN ZION A STONE OF STUMBLING AND A ROCK OF OFFENSE, AND THE ONE WHO BELIEVES UPON HIM WILL NOT BE PUT TO SHAME.”

Brothers, my heart’s desire and my prayer to God for them is for their salvation. For I testify about them that they have a zeal for God, but not according to knowledge. For not knowing about the righteousness of God and seeking to establish their own, they did not subject themselves to the righteousness of God. For Christ is the end of the law for righteousness to everyone who believes.”

EXPOSITION

Overview

Key Questions

1. What shall we say then? (9:30-31)
2. Why shall we say it? (9:32-33)
3. How shall we pray? (10:1-4)

I. WHAT SHALL WE SAY THEN?

Romans 9:30a

“What shall we say then?”

- Context: God chose to save Gentiles, who did not previously want or pursue righteousness. In contrast, Jews following the Law did not obtain righteousness.
 - How? God gives faith freely.
- How do Jews who want and work for righteousness not get it?
 - They do not believe.

That Gentiles, who did not pursue righteousness, laid hold of righteousness, even the righteousness which is by faith;”

Context of Romans:

- Ch 6: you were slaves of sin
- Ch 7: nothing good dwells within you.
- Ch 8: you cannot submit to God
- Ch 10: God cannot be found by those who do not seek Him.

Question: How then do we get faith?

- Ch 11: From God, through God, and to God are all things!
 - Including your faith.

Romans 1:16-17 (key thesis)

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. For in it the righteousness of God is revealed from faith for faith, as it is written, “The righteous shall live by faith.”

- Who reveals the righteousness of God? God
- By whose power? God’s power
- How does God demonstrate His power? From faith, for faith, to faith.

Question: Where is our comfort?

- Temptation: Christians tempted to shortcut their faith. They look at their own faith for assurance. Am I believing? Ingrown spirituality is a dead-end.
 - Truth: Look to Christ. That is faith.
 - Assurance arises from faith in Christ.
- Otherwise: when look to self, then look to self-righteousness and self-work, which does not need to salvation.

Romans 9:31

“but Israel, pursuing a law of righteousness, did not attain that law.”

- Jews forsook righteousness and instead sought religion and works.

II. WHY SHALL WE SAY IT? (v.32-33)

Romans 9:32

“Why? Because they did not pursue it by faith, but as though it were by works. They stumbled over the stumbling stone,”

Why did Israel fail?

- They failed to pursue it by faith but rather by works.
- When pursue righteousness by works, leads to misperception of “I deserve everything I have received from God.”
 - Works of religion adds to Christ, which does nothing but spit on His work on the cross.

Romans 4:1-3

What then shall we say was gained by Abraham, our forefather according to the flesh? For if Abraham was justified by works, he has something to boast about, but not before God. For what does the Scripture say? “Abraham believed God, and it was counted to him as righteousness.”

- Faith is not righteousness but something that God treats as righteousness.

Ephesians 2:8-9

For by grace you have been saved through faith. And this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God, not a result of works, so that no one may boast.

- We are saved by grace. God graciously gives us faith

Romans 9:33

“just as it is written, “BEHOLD, I AM LAYING IN ZION A STONE OF STUMBLING AND A ROCK OF OFFENSE, AND THE ONE WHO BELIEVES UPON HIM WILL NOT BE PUT TO SHAME.””

- Paul quoting the “Tanak.” (The Law and the Prophets)
 - Why? Show that the whole Bible points to God’s electing love.

Context of this quote: Isaiah 28

- Isaiah preaches the Word from God. But Israel rejects the message.

Isaiah 28:14-16

Therefore hear the word of the LORD, you scoffers, who rule this people in Jerusalem! Because you have said, “We have made a covenant with death, and with Sheol we have an agreement, when the overwhelming whip passes through it will not come to us, for we have made lies our refuge, and in falsehood we have taken shelter”; therefore thus says the Lord

GOD, "Behold, I am the one who has laid as a foundation in Zion, a stone, a tested stone, a precious cornerstone, of a sure foundation: 'Whoever believes will not be in haste.'

Psalms 118:22-24

The stone that the builders rejected has become the cornerstone. This is the LORD's doing; it is marvelous in our eyes. This is the day that the LORD has made; let us rejoice and be glad in it.

III. HOW SHALL WE PRAY?

- Question: Is anyone hopeless (including Israel)?

Romans 10:1

"Brothers, my heart's desire and my prayer to God for them is for their salvation.

2 Corinthians 11:24-28

Five times I received at the hands of the Jews the forty lashes less one. Three times I was beaten with rods. Once I was stoned. Three times I was shipwrecked; a night and a day I was adrift at sea; on frequent journeys, in danger from rivers, danger from robbers, danger from my own people, danger from Gentiles, danger in the city, danger in the wilderness, danger at sea, danger from false brothers; in toil and hardship, through many a sleepless night, in hunger and thirst, often without food, in cold and exposure. And, apart from other things, there is the daily pressure on me of my anxiety for all the churches.

- Paul endured so much suffering yet did not shed any sadness for himself.
 - Yet here in today's passage, Paul weeps for Israel's salvation

Question: Why pray if God is sovereign?

- Responsive question: Why would you pray if God is not sovereign?
 - If all things are not controlled or planned by the God of love who does all things well and right, what would you do?

Romans 10:2

For I testify about them that they have a zeal for God, but not according to knowledge.

Philippians 3:4-6

though I myself have reason for confidence in the flesh also. If anyone else thinks he has reason for confidence in the flesh, I have more: circumcised on the eighth day, of the people of Israel, of the tribe of Benjamin, a Hebrew of Hebrews; as to the law, a Pharisee; as to zeal, a persecutor of the church; as to righteousness under the law, blameless.

- Paul's secular example. He was zealous and passionate but it was not by faith but only under the Law.

Romans 10:3

For not knowing about the righteousness of God and seeking to establish their own, they did not subject themselves to the righteousness of God.

- Religion makes God less than Who He is. Religion makes man greater than who he is.
 - Man does not subject himself to God.
- But what happens with repentance?

Philippians 3:7-8

But whatever gain I had, I counted as loss for the sake of Christ. Indeed, I count everything as loss because of the surpassing worth of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord. For his sake I have suffered the loss of all things and count them as rubbish, in order that I may gain Christ

- Repentance = Changing of heart
 - Final realization that true righteousness is in Christ and in Christ alone.

Romans 10:4

For Christ is the end of the law for righteousness to everyone who believes.”

- The finality of the Law is Christ.
 - Anyone looking at the Law rightly would turn to Christ.
 - One realizes one cannot save oneself on one own’s effort but needs a Savior.

John 19:30

When Jesus had received the sour wine, he said, “It is finished,” and he bowed his head and gave up his spirit.

- Jesus’ final words: It is finished
 - Never go outside of Christ.
- Pledge allegiance to God, who is the king of salvation.