

Israel and the Gospel (Romans 10)



Unbelief of Israel

Romans 9

³ For I could wish that I myself were accursed and cut off from Christ for the sake of my brothers, my kinsmen according to the flesh.

Unbelief of Israel

Romans 10

¹ Brothers, my heart's desire and prayer to God for them is that they may be saved.

Unbelief of Israel

Romans 11

¹ I ask, then, has God rejected his people? By no means! For I myself am an Israelite, a descendant of Abraham, a member of the tribe of Benjamin.

Faith and Works

² For I bear them witness that they have a zeal for God, but not according to knowledge.

³ For, being ignorant of the righteousness of God, and seeking to establish their own, they did not submit to God's righteousness.

- The Jews are trying to achieve a righteousness of their own through works of the law.
- Impossible because perfect obedience to the law is necessary for salvation.

“For whoever keeps the whole law but fails in one point has become accountable for all of it.” (James 2:10)

**The only way to righteousness is
by faith in Jesus Christ.**

**⁴ For Christ is the end of the law for
righteousness to everyone who believes.**

5 For Moses writes about the righteousness that is based on the law, that the person who does the commandments shall live by them.

(Quotation from Leviticus 18:5)

Are we now singing a different hymn altogether? Are we abolishing the law? No, of course not! We are setting it to a far better tune, a tune that in fact God himself has written for it. It was never meant to be fulfilled 'by works' in the way that the Pharisees and others attempted (see 9.30–10.4). It was always designed to be sung to the tune called 'faith'.

(N. T. Wright)

**6 But the righteousness based on faith says,
“Do not say in your heart, ‘Who will ascend
into heaven?’”**

(that is, to bring Christ down)

7 “or ‘Who will descend into the abyss?’”

(that is, to bring Christ up from the dead).

**8 But what does it say? “The word is near
you, in your mouth and in your heart”**

(that is, the word of faith that we proclaim)

(See Deuteronomy 30:11-14)

Deuteronomy 30:14

“But the word is very near you. It is in your mouth and in your heart, so that YOU CAN DO IT.”

Circumcision of your heart

“And the Lord your God will circumcise your heart and the heart of your offspring, so that you will love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul, that you may live.”

(Deuteronomy 30:6)

**How did Paul see Christ in
Deuteronomy 30:11-14?**

**“He puts Christ where the
commandment is.” (John Piper)**

Perfect obedience to the law is fulfilled in Christ (justification) and it is possible in Christ (sanctification).

“Two things happen when faith connects [us] to Jesus: one is that his righteousness counts for ours before God, so that we are fully accepted in Christ; and the other is that power begins to flow through this connection to overcome sin.” (John Piper)

9 because, if you confess with your mouth that Jesus is Lord and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved.

10 For with the heart one believes and is justified, and with the mouth one confesses and is saved.

11 For the Scripture says, “Everyone who believes in him will not be put to shame.”

12 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.

13 For “everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved.”

Unbelief of Israel

- Faith and Works

- Stubborn Hearts

14 How then will they call on him in whom they have not believed?

And how are they to believe in him of whom they have never heard?

And how are they to hear without someone preaching?

15 And how are they to preach unless they are sent?

As it is written, “How beautiful are the feet of those who preach the good news!”

Stages of Evangelism

- **Sending** of the preacher
- **Preaching** the Gospel of Christ
- **Hearing** the Gospel of Christ
- **Believing** in Christ
- **Calling** on God

17 "So faith comes from hearing, and hearing through the word of Christ."

Preaching – Hearing – Believing

“The word of which Christ is both content and author.”

14 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.”

(Quotation from Psalm 19:4)

14 But I ask, did Israel not understand?

First Moses says,

“I will make you jealous of those who are not a nation; with a foolish nation I will make you angry.”

20 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.”

(Deuteronomy 32:21 and Isaiah 65:1)

If Israel's unbelief is not due to the absence of hearing and understanding, then what is it?

“Israel is simply stubborn.” (John Stott)

21 But of Israel he says, “All day long I have held out my hands to a disobedient and contrary people.”

Has the Word of God failed?

God is sovereign.

People can be very stubborn.

Don't forget: God is good

21 But of Israel he says, "All day long I have held out my hands to a disobedient and contrary people."