

INTRODUCTION.

- A. Scripture text: **Romans 10:1-13**.
- B. One would think that Israel as a nation would have been eagerly awaiting their Messiah. They had known the OT prophecies for centuries, the Law being their "schoolmaster" to the Savior (Gal. 3:24).
Therefore the Law has become our tutor to lead us to Christ, that we may be justified by faith.
- C. But when X came unto His own people, they rejected Him (Jn. 1:11).
He came to His own, and those who were His own did not receive Him.
- D. How do we explain this tragic event? How can a sovereign God who has been so faithful to Israel witness their rejection of the promised One?
- E. Paul lists 4 reasons that Israel, as a nation, rejected X.

I. **FIRST, THEY DID NOT FEEL A NEED FOR SALVATION.**

- A. See **Rom. 10:1**.
Brethren, my heart's desire and my prayer to God for them is for their salvation.
- B. Israel considered the Gentiles in need of salvation, but certainly not themselves.
- C. Jesus had pointed to Israel's sinfulness in several parables, but many of Jews did not understand what He was talking about.
 - 1. The older brother (Lk. 15:11-32) did not understand the blessing of his younger brother in realizing his sin, repenting of it, and coming home to Father.
 - 2. The Pharisee (Lk. 18:9-14) was proud of who he was, and even more glad that he considered himself not to be a sinner like the publican.
 - 3. At the marriage feast (Mt. 22:1-14) the original invitations went out to Israel but they rejected the banquet ("they were not worthy"), and then others were invited to come in.
 - 4. The wicked tenant farmers (Mt. 21:33-46) kept killing the servants of the owner, even the owner's son. Their kingdom was taken from them and given to others. The Pharisees realized that Jesus was talking about them (Mt. 21:45).
- D. The lesson for us today is quite clear: In our affluence we may not be keenly aware of our need for salvation. Just because we are richly blessed does not mean that we are spiritually right with Him.
- E. The prophets of Judah in Jeremiah's day cried, "Peace, peace" when there was no peace (Jer. 6:13-15). The people were wickedly sinful and needed to realize their need for salvation.

II. **SECOND, THEY WERE ZEALOUS WITHOUT KNOWLEDGE.**

- A. See **Rom. 10:2**.
For I bear them witness that they have a zeal for God, but not in accordance with knowledge.
- B. Babylonian captivity cured the Israelites of idolatry. Their zeal was for God, but unfortunately was a zeal that was without a proper knowledge of God.
- C. God has always instructed mankind on how He is to be worshiped. We are not left to figure out for ourselves!
- D. The Jews had become very zealous for their traditions (Gal. 1:14).
...and I was advancing in Judaism beyond many of my contemporaries among my countrymen, being more extremely zealous for my ancestral traditions.
- E. Traditions are not intrinsically wrong. They become wrong when they cause us to ignore and/or violate the word of God (2Th. 2:15; Mt. 15:3).
(1Th 2:15) So then, brethren, stand firm and hold to the traditions which you were taught, whether by word of mouth or by letter from us.
(Mt 15:3) And He answered and said to them, "And why do you yourselves transgress the commandment of God for the sake of your tradition?"

- F. Many of our religious friends have a great zeal for God. They are sincere and energetic in their commitment to X. But zeal is no good if it is not done according to truth (1Pet. 1:22).
 Since you have in obedience to the truth purified your souls for a sincere love of the brethren, fervently love one another from the heart,

III. **THIRD, THEY WERE PROUD AND SELF-RIGHTEOUS.**

- A. See **Rom. 10:3**.
 For not knowing about God's righteousness, and seeking to establish their own, they did not subject themselves to the righteousness of God.
- B. There is an ignorance that comes from lack of opportunity. But Israel's ignorance was due to a willful, stubborn resistance to the truth. God sent many prophets, and wrote 10,000 precepts of Law, but the Jews regarded it as a strange thing (Hos. 8:12).
 Though I wrote for him ten thousand precepts of My law, They are regarded as a strange thing.
- C. The text says that the Jews tried to "establish a righteousness of their own." We can make the same mistake today when we begin looking in other places for guidance and satisfaction.
- D. We also establish a righteousness of our own when we "pick and choose" what we will and will not do in the kingdom. The new covenant is not a smorgasbord!
- E. Pride was the condemnation of the devil (1Tim. 3:6). Self-righteousness means dethroning Christ, and enthroning self (Lk. 9:23).

IV. **FOURTH, THEY MISUNDERSTOOD THEIR OWN LAW.**

- A. See **Rom. 10:4-13**.
- B. Everything in the Law of Moses pointed toward X. If you ever get "bored" with reading the OT, try and find out how your reading relates to X. The sacrifices, the priesthood, temple services, religious festivals, and covenants--all have Christological significance.
- C. The Law cannot give righteousness--it is designed to lead the sinner to the Savior, who can give righteousness. Jesus becomes the fulfilling end or consummation of the Law (10:4; Eph. 1:9-10).
(Rom 10:4) For Christ is the end of the law for righteousness to everyone who believes.
(Eph 1:9-10) He made known to us the mystery of His will, according to His kind intention which He purposed in Him with a view to an administration suitable to the fullness of the times, that is, the summing up of all things in Christ, things in the heavens and things upon the earth.
- D. **Law Righteousness and Faith Righteousness.**
- The Jews were still looking for an earthly king, a Messiah who would restore Israel to power in Palestine. They wanted a Savior that would overthrow the Romans and begin again a political and religious state like that under David.
 - Since Jesus of Nazareth did not fit this plan; to find such a ruler it would seem that one would need to ascend into heaven and bring X down, or descend into the Hadean world and bring X up (Rom. 10:6-7).
 But the righteousness based on faith speaks thus, "DO NOT SAY IN YOUR HEART, 'WHO WILL ASCEND INTO HEAVEN?' (that is, to bring Christ down), or 'WHO WILL DESCEND INTO THE ABYSS?' (that is, to bring Christ up from the dead)."
 - The grave mistake in this thinking is that the salvation that Jesus offers is nationalistic or political. It is spiritual! And the very gospel that is being preached all around them is the answer that they need to be looking for (Rom. 10:8-11).
 But what does it say? "THE WORD IS NEAR YOU, IN YOUR MOUTH AND IN YOUR HEART"--that is, the word of faith which we are preaching, that if you confess with your mouth Jesus as Lord, and believe in your heart that God raised Him from the dead, you shall be saved; for with the heart man believes, resulting in righteousness, and with the mouth he confesses, resulting in salvation. For the Scripture says, "WHOEVER BELIEVES IN HIM WILL NOT BE DISAPPOINTED."
 - Their perceived idea of salvation and what it truly is can be contrasted:

<u>Law Righteousness</u>	<u>Faith Righteousness</u>
Only for the Jew	For "whosoever" (10:11-13).

Based on works (9:32)
Self-righteousness
Cannot save
Leads to pride

Comes by faith in X (10:10).
God's righteousness (9:30).
Brings salvation (10:9-10).
Glorifies God

CONCLUSION AND INVITATION.

- A. Israel needed to turn from their "Law righteousness" and believe in the righteousness offered in X.
- B. The entire "Xian system" or new covenant is based on the fact that Jesus is the X, the promised Messiah of the OT.
- C. Don't reject X as Israel has done. To be acceptable to God through X:
 - 1. Recognize your need for salvation.
 - 2. Have a zeal for God according to His word.
 - 3. Repent of pride and self-righteousness.
 - 4. Understand the blessings of the new covenant in X's blood (forgiveness).
- C. Plan of salvation for non-Xians, erring Xians.