

## Romans Chapter 10

Before we begin studying Romans chapter 10, please review what we learned in Romans chapter 9 by circling the correct answers.

1. In Romans 9, God is in the process of dumping Israel on the ash heap of history, because of her unbelief and lack of faith, Romans 9:32. True - False
2. In Romans 9, Esau represents: **a.** the spirit, **b.** the flesh, **c.** the church, **d.** earth, wind and fire.
3. In Romans 9, Jacob represents: **a.** the spirit, **b.** the flesh, **c.** the liberals, **d.** the vegetarians.
4. Romans 9 explains that God rejected Israel because of: **a.** Bible prophesy, **b.** segregation, **c.** a lack of diversity, **d.** a lack of faith.
5. How many times does Romans 9 mention, unconditional election to salvation? **a.** 2 times, **b.** 4 times, **c.** Romans 9 never mentions unconditional election to salvation.
6. The theme of Romans 9 is: **a.** unconditional election to salvation, **b.** faith in Messiah Jesus, **c.** blue skies of the Mediterranean.

### **VI. Consternation: Israel's Rejection of God's Righteousness (9:1–11:36)**

- a. 9:1-33 - Why Israel rejected God's righteousness**
- b. 10:1-21 - Why Israel rejected faith in Christ**
- c. 11:1-36 - Why Israel is removed from the olive tree**

### **Introduction to Romans chapter 10**

Romans 10 is about Gentile appropriation of salvation and God's underlying reason for the transition, from OT to NT, from law to grace, from Moses to Christ, from temple to church, from Israel to the Gentiles. Faithless, unbelieving Israel rejected salvation full and free and the amazing grace of God in Christ, by refusing to have faith in Christ. God's elect, Isaiah 45:4, rejected the God who elected them and who viewed them as His peculiar treasure, Exodus 19:4-6.

Paul ended the section we know as, Romans chapter 9, by pointing out that Israel sought righteousness by the law, Deuteronomy 6:24-25, Romans 9:32, while Gentiles *attained to righteousness, even the righteousness which is of faith*, Romans 9:30. A key lesson we learn here is that, a man who seeks righteousness by works of the law, never obtains righteousness or salvation. After the resurrection of Christ, we are on the grace side of Calvary and righteousness / salvation, is only by grace, through faith.

In the book of Romans, Paul uses the word, righteousness, 39 times, the word, unrighteousness, 7 times, the word, righteous, 4 times and the word, unrighteous, 1 time. The human race is, by nature, unrighteous. Our actions demonstrate the unrighteousness of our fallen human nature. That is why we need the righteousness of Christ. Righteousness is the theme of Paul's gospel, the theme of NT teaching about salvation and therefore, the theme of Romans.

1. Who is righteous before God? \_\_\_\_\_
2. Where does righteousness come from? \_\_\_\_\_
3. Is my human or religious righteousness good enough to satisfy a holy God? \_\_\_\_\_
4. How do I get the righteousness that God will accept? \_\_\_\_\_
5. Is the righteousness of Christ available to me, right now, today? \_\_\_\_\_
6. Is the righteousness of Christ a free gift or must I earn it? \_\_\_\_\_

### **Here is the outline of Romans 10**

1. The Gospel has been offered to all - Romans 10:12.
2. The Gospel is within the reach of all - Romans 10:13.
3. The Gospel has not been obeyed by all - Romans 10:16.

**1- Brethren, my heart's desire and prayer to God for Israel is, that they might be saved.**

**Brethren,** - The last time Paul used the word, brethren, in Romans 9:3, it referred to unsaved Israelites. Here, *brethren*, refers to saved Israelites and saved Gentiles, but not to unsaved Israelites.

**my heart's desire** - Paul's heart burned with evangelistic fire. He wasn't an empire builder. He wasn't focused on building buildings or constructing a spiritual and financial power base, from which he could control people's lives. He wasn't psychologically manipulating people so he could get their money. The desire of Paul's heart was to see people get saved and become vibrant, living, witnessing, disciples of Jesus. As a Christian, is that the desire of your heart?

**and prayer to God for Israel is,** - Christians sometimes ask: Should I pray for my unsaved friends and relatives to get saved? The answer is: Yes, of course you should pray for unsaved friends and relatives and others, to get saved. We are told to follow Paul as he followed Christ, 1 Corinthians 11:1. Shame on born again Christians who are not praying for unsaved folks to get saved.

**that they might be saved.** - All of us need to be saved because all of us are sinners, justly under the condemnation of a holy God. All of us are sinners in

three ways. **1.** We are sinners because of Adam's original sin, which was imputed to all of us, Romans 5:12-21. **2.** We are sinners by nature, in that, we all have a sin nature, inherited from Adam, Psalm 51:5, Romans 7:19-23, Ephesians 2:3. **3.** We are sinners by individual choice, Isaiah 53:5-6, 64:6, Romans 3:23,

The epistles (letters) Paul wrote to churches and individuals, which are in our NT, are given by inspiration of God. Twelve times in those epistles/letters, Paul tells us we should follow him, meaning, follow him as he followed Christ: Acts 26:29, Romans 11:14, 1 Corinthians 4:16, 11:1, Galatians 3:1, 4:12, Philippians 4:9, 1 Thessalonians 1:6, 2 Thessalonians 2:7, 9, 1 Timothy 1:16, 2 Timothy 3:10-14. If Paul, writing under inspiration of God, says it twelve times, it must be vitally important to God, and therefore, it should be vitally important to us.

Since Jesus died for all, 1 Timothy 2:4-6, so that all can get saved, and, *God is not willing that any should perish, but that all should come to repentance*, 2 Peter 3:9, what is the point of praying for unsaved people? Aren't they going to get saved anyway and isn't praying for them just a waste of time?

We are encouraged to pray for the lost because God wants us to have a part in His grand plan of redemption, Matthew 9:36-38, 28:18-20, Luke 10:2, John 4:35-36, Acts 1:8. We have the great privilege and high honour of being laborers with Him in the great harvest of souls. Praying for and witnessing to the lost is part of the God ordained process of, the love of God being *shed abroad in our hearts by the Holy Ghost*, Romans 5:5.

God allows us to be coworkers with Him in bringing the lost to saving faith in the Lord Jesus Christ. How can we be part of God's great, worldwide harvest of souls, according to Romans 10:1? \_\_\_\_\_ Do you understand the magnificent privilege God offers us, to work with Him in the worldwide harvest of souls? \_\_\_\_\_ Will you pray for the lost to get saved \_\_\_\_\_ and will you be a laborer in God's harvest? \_\_\_\_\_

Since Paul prayed for unsaved people to get saved, and since we are following Paul, as he followed Christ, 1 Corinthians 11:1, we should pray for unsaved people to get saved. Our prayers should be definite and specific. Mention people by name and be clear about what you're asking God for, when you pray.

**2 - For I bear them record that they have a zeal of God, but not according to knowledge.**

**For I bear them record that they have a zeal of God,** - Paul was a self-made expert on religious zeal. Religious zeal is based in pride. Religious zeal is ugly

and ungodly. Religious zeal is a great hindrance to getting saved. Paul had experienced it firsthand and it drove him to wicked, murderous activities.

*“Concerning zeal, persecuting the church; touching the righteousness which is in the law, blameless.”* Philippians 3:6.

*“As for Saul, he made havock of the church, entering into every house, and haling men and women committed them to prison.”* Acts 8:3.

*“But all that heard him were amazed, and said; Is not this he that destroyed them which called on this name in Jerusalem, and came hither for that intent, that he might bring them bound unto the chief priests?”* Acts 9:21.

*“And I persecuted this way unto the death, binding and delivering into prisons both men and women.”* Acts 22:4.

*“For ye have heard of my conversation in time past in the Jews' religion, how that beyond measure I persecuted the church of God, and wasted it:”*  
Galatians 1:13.

*Zeal of God* is a rare thing among Christians these days. Unsaved people and religious people seem to have an excess of zeal but saved people are often lacking in the zeal department. We live in the Laodicean age, when many people are so lukewarm, they make God sick, Revelation 3:15-16.

Paul had great zeal toward God, before he got saved. He worked tirelessly, hunting and persecuting Christians, as part of his religious duty.

*“I am verily a man which am a Jew, born in Tarsus, a city in Cilicia, yet brought up in this city (Jerusalem) at the feet of Gamaliel, and taught according to the perfect manner of the law of the fathers, and was zealous toward God, as ye all are this day.”* Acts 22:3.

*“And profited in the Jews' religion above many my equals in mine own nation, being more exceedingly zealous of the traditions of my fathers.”* Galatians 4:14.

*“Making the word of God of none effect through your tradition, which ye have delivered: and many such like things do ye.”* Mark 7:13.

What happens when unsaved religious people have a zeal of God, but not according to knowledge? \_\_\_\_\_

Can religious zeal make the word of God of none effect? \_\_\_\_\_

Can religious tradition make the word of God of none effect? \_\_\_\_\_

**but not according to knowledge.** - Our zeal should always be moderated by knowledge of the word of truth, rightly divided, 2 Timothy 2:15. Our zeal should always be regulated by what the Bible says, in context. For our zeal to be informed by knowledge, we need to read and study the word of God. We need to know the word of God and also know the God of the word through the practical experience of walking with Him and trusting Him daily, so that our zeal is according to knowledge. Our daily quiet time with God, reading the Bible and praying, help guide our zeal so it is scriptural zeal, based on a world view that is genuinely biblical.

The bottom line is: our zeal for God should be genuine, not theoretical. Theoretical zeal is “All hat and no cattle” zeal. Theoretical zeal is false zeal. God won’t bless fake zeal so don’t ever live your Christian life with false zeal. Live honestly before God. Cultivate biblical zeal based on what the Bible says, in context.

Should every Christian read the NT from Matthew to Revelation? \_\_\_\_\_

Should every Christian read the OT from Genesis to Malachi? \_\_\_\_\_

If I’ve read the Bible once, should I ever read it again? \_\_\_\_\_

**3 - For they being ignorant of God's righteousness, and going about to establish their own righteousness, have not submitted themselves unto the righteousness of God.**

**For they being ignorant of God's righteousness,** - Ignorance is never a good thing, especially when we’re talking about God’s righteousness and eternal salvation. Ignorance means you keep doing things the wrong way while thinking the wrong way will work. What does it mean, to be ignorant of God’s righteousness? To answer that question, we need to define God’s righteousness.

God’s righteousness is Jesus Christ, Jeremiah 23:5-6. No one can get God’s righteousness apart from the Lord Jesus Christ. God requires that we have the righteousness of Christ, to get to heaven. How do we get the righteousness of Christ? By faith alone in Christ alone. How did Abram get God’s righteousness? He got it by faith, by believing God.

*“And he believed in the LORD; and he counted it to him for righteousness.”* Genesis 15:6.

Do you understand, according to Genesis 15:6, what it takes for God to give you His righteousness? **a.** It takes determination, **b.** It takes religious zeal, **c.** It

takes joining a good church, **d**. It takes the sacrament of the mass, **e**. It takes lots of good works, **f**. It takes believing what God said.

First century Israel had the lineage of Abraham but what they really needed was the faith of Abraham, Genesis 15:1-6, 17:9, 18:17-19. You can get to heaven without the lineage of Abraham but no one makes it to heaven without the faith of Abraham. Faith means, you believe what God said. There are many people who do not believe the Bible.

They say, The Bible was written by men, therefore it isn't really the word of God. Even when the Bible testifies that it is the pure words of the LORD, Psalm 12:6-7, professing Christians say, Yes, but men wrote that, or, Yes, but it would say that because the men who wrote it want you to believe it is the word of God. People who view the Bible that way are doing the opposite of what Abraham did. They profess to be saved but they do not have the faith of Abraham because, instead of believing what God said, they deny and reject what God said.

When you reject what God said; when you refuse to believe what God said, the only thing left is works-based salvation. Ancient Israel tried to get the righteousness of God by works, by keeping the law of Moses, instead of by faith. In plainer words, they refused to believe in the LORD. They refused to believe in Messiah Jesus. Biological lineage, which Israel had, coming from a good family like Abraham's family, never saved anyone. The Jews were busy being zealous but their zeal was religious and not godly.

Unsaved Saul of Tarsus is the biblical of example of a zealous, unsaved, unbelieving, faithless, Messiah rejecting Jew. Had they received Jesus as their Messiah, God would have saved every Jew in first century Israel, but they would not, Matthew 23:37-39, John 1:11, 3:19, 5:40. Their lost condition had nothing to do with God not unconditionally electing them to salvation. It had everything to do with them rejecting the Messiah God sent to them.

The gospel addresses God's righteousness, man's sinfulness and God's free gift of salvation through the propitiating sacrifice of Christ on the cross. Remember that propitiation means, a sacrifice that appeases the wrath of God, Romans 3:25. Jesus, dying on the cross, with our sins upon Him (paying for our sins by shedding His blood), satisfied the demands of God's justice and appeased the wrath of God. In Romans, Paul reduces salvation down to this basic proposition.

**Who or what are you trusting to save your soul?**

There are only two answers: **a.** the righteousness of God, or, **b.** my own human righteousness. One of those answers always works and the other answer never works. Giving the wrong answer to that question is not spiritual or virtuous or bold or sassy or cool or contemporary. If you get that answer wrong, you go to hell. What causes so many people to consistently make the wrong choice, when answering that question? \_\_\_\_\_

Romans is not some dry as dust ancient text. Romans speaks truth to our modern life in the twenty first century. Are you listening to the truth Romans speaks? \_\_\_\_\_ The book of Romans contains universal truth, alive and powerful, radically life-changing and applicable to us today. We have lessons we can learn from Romans chapter 10, to help us grow spiritually. In their own wisdom, by their own works, Israel was powerless to produce a righteousness that satisfied the demands of God's absolute holiness. The problem with ancient Israel was, they were ignorant of God's righteousness.

### **Why was Israel ignorant of God's righteousness?**

- 1.** According to Jesus, Israel didn't believe what Moses wrote in the law, John 5:44-47. Israel was trusting Moses, John 9:28, instead of trusting Jesus but didn't believe what Moses wrote. Isn't that odd? That is intentional ignorance because God gave the law to the Jews and they should have believed it.
- 2.** According to Mark, Israel's faithlessness was so great, even Jesus marvelled at their unbelief, Mark 6:5-6. The Jews were intentionally offended (Mark 6:3), because Jesus was among them, teaching and healing. They refused to believe their own eyes.
- 3.** According to Jesus, not only didn't Israel believe the law of Moses, Israel didn't even keep the law of Moses, John 7:19. They were intentionally disobedient.
- 4.** Israel thought their descent from Abraham and their hatred for Jesus merited them heaven, John 8:37, 40, 44. That is intentional arrogance.
- 5.** Israel *omitted the weightier matters of the law, judgment, mercy and faith*, Matthew 23:23. That is intentional defiance. In case you missed it, Jesus just pointed out that Israel didn't have the faith of Abraham. Paul knew that too and pointed it out in Romans 9:32.
- 6.** Israel ignored her God-given conscience, John 8:9, Romans 2:15. That is intentional rebellion.

7. When confronted with God's truth, instead of getting right with God, the Jews got mad and, multiple times, tried to kill Jesus, Matthew 26:4, Mark 3:4-6, 11:18, 14:1, 55, Luke 4:28-29, 19:47, 20:19, 22:2, John 5:16, 18, 7:1, 25, 8:37, 8:40, 8:59, 10:31, 39. That God's elect people Israel, Isaiah 45:4, tried to kill the God who elected them, gives the lie to the false philosophy known as TULIP.

Did you know God's elect, the Jews, tried to kill Jesus that many times? \_\_\_\_\_  
What do you think of that? \_\_\_\_\_

### Review Questions

1. What should we learn, from John 5:44-47, that Israel didn't believe what Moses wrote? \_\_\_\_\_
2. What should we learn, from Mark 6:5-6, that even Jesus marvelled at Israel's unbelief? \_\_\_\_\_
3. What should we learn, from John 7:19, that Israel didn't keep the law of Moses? \_\_\_\_\_
4. What should we learn, from John 8:37, 40, 44, that the religious leaders wanted to kill Jesus? \_\_\_\_\_
5. What should we learn, from Matthew 23:23, that Israel omitted faith as a weighty thing? \_\_\_\_\_
6. What should we learn, from John 8:9, when Jewish leaders ignored their conscience? \_\_\_\_\_
7. What should we learn, from the shocking truth that Israel, God's elect people, rejected God and their election by God? \_\_\_\_\_

### There are really only two kinds of religion on earth.

**I. Biblical Christianity**, which preaches, teaches and believes the gospel, Romans 1:16, that the only way to God is by faith in the blood sacrifice of the Lord Jesus Christ as our substitute, dying as us for us, propitiating / appeasing the wrath of God against our sins and rising bodily from the dead on the third day, according to the scriptures, 1 Corinthians 15:1-8.

**II. Every other religion**, because all other religions teach the same thing, that your good works or good intentions provide enough righteousness to make God accept you. Every religion on earth except biblical Christianity teaches salvation by works or works righteousness. It is part of being a fallen human to imagine that you can work your way to heaven, that you are so sweet, smart, cute and lovable that you can earn salvation, because, the reasoning goes, God doesn't really care if you obey Him. He just wants to make you happy.

What are the two kinds of religion? \_\_\_\_\_

Make a note of this. Except for biblical Christianity, every other religion is ignorant of God's righteousness. Discuss. Are there any exceptions to that statement?

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**Every religion except biblical NT Christianity  
is ignorant of God's righteousness.**

That's why all religions need the glorious gospel of Christ. That's why we need to be witnesses for Jesus, taking the glorious gospel of Christ to the lost. That's why born again, saved Christians should never, ever join interfaith movements. These days, even professing Christians are as ignorant of God's righteousness as was ancient Israel in the OT and the NT. Lack of knowledge equals ignorance.

*"My people are destroyed for lack of knowledge: because thou hast rejected knowledge, I will also reject thee, that thou shalt be no priest to me: seeing thou hast forgotten the law of thy God, I will also forget thy children." Hosea 4:6.*

God's righteousness is all about the glorious gospel of Christ and justification by faith. When Paul writes Romans, he talks about justification by faith and, in Romans 4, Paul traces justification by faith back to Abraham in Genesis 15:1-6. Almost everyone in the twenty first century is ignorant of God's righteousness and the biblical truth of justification by faith alone.

Since the resurrection of Christ, the only way to get saved is by believing on the Lord Jesus Christ. When you believe on the Lord Jesus Christ, the Holy Spirit baptizes you into the body of Christ, 1 Corinthians 12:13. That Holy Spirit baptism (no water involved) puts you in Christ. In Christ you are justified by faith, adopted into the family of God, elect, blessed with all spiritual blessings in Christ, sealed unto the day of redemption, eternally secure in Christ.

**Justification by faith  
is the essence of salvation.**

If you don't yet recognize justification by faith as the essence of salvation, you are still in the category Paul described: ignorant of God's righteousness. In salvation, the repentant sinner believes on the Lord Jesus Christ. When he believes, he is saved and justified by faith. Because Christ, on the cross, had our sins imputed to Him, when we believe on Christ Jesus, His righteousness is

imputed to us. It should go without saying that justification by faith and justification by works are opposites. If you are justified by works, you cannot be justified by faith. If you are justified by faith, you cannot be justified by works.

Because we are studying Romans, there is no reason to remain ignorant. This is your opportunity to educate yourself. In Romans, Paul writes about the faith of Abraham, Romans 4:12-16. The reason Israel rejected Jesus as their Messiah and the reason Israel rejected Paul's message about Jesus, is, they didn't have the faith of Abraham and they didn't want the faith of Abraham.

**Everyone who thinks he can earn salvation by works  
is ignorant of God's righteousness  
and doesn't understand justification by faith.**

What is the antidote to ignorance? \_\_\_\_\_ Part of our job as Christians in the twenty first century is to explain and teach Bible doctrine and Bible truth to our fellow Christians. Why is that necessary? Because they are not being taught basic Bible doctrine in their churches, which means they are, Romans 10:3: \_\_\_\_\_

In order to get saved, you must stop being ignorant, meaning, you must understand God's righteousness. Once you understand God's righteousness, you will understand, comparatively speaking, your lack of righteousness.

How can anyone get God's righteousness? **a.** Do lots of religious good works, **b.** Try to always do the right thing, even when it's difficult, **c.** Always respect the sincerity of other religions, **d.** Don't be a goody two shoes, **e.** believe on the Lord Jesus Christ by grace alone, through faith alone, as your only way of salvation.

Once you know the truth of the gospel of Christ and justification by faith, you know that the best way to witness to anyone from any religion is to tell the gospel story, of Jesus and His death for sinners, his burial for sinners and His physical, bodily resurrection from the dead, for sinners, according to the scriptures, because the gospel *is the power of God unto salvation to everyone that believeth*, Romans 1:16.

1. Why can't God just accept us the way we are? \_\_\_\_\_
2. Why does everyone need God's righteousness? \_\_\_\_\_
3. Am I really so bad that God won't let me into His heaven? \_\_\_\_\_
4. Are you saying you're right and everyone else is wrong? \_\_\_\_\_

5. I feel like you're attacking and judging me because I don't believe what you believe. Why are you doing that? \_\_\_\_\_
6. I'm not a fanatic so I don't believe in hell. Isn't hell just a scare tactic, made up by religious leaders so they can control people? \_\_\_\_\_

We need God's righteousness because judgment is coming, all will be there; each one receiving, justly his due. The apostle Paul preached about that in ancient Athens.

*"Because he hath appointed a day, in the which he will judge the world in righteousness by that man whom he hath ordained; whereof he hath given assurance unto all men, in that he hath raised him from the dead."* Acts 17:31.

Since God is going to judge the world in righteousness, doesn't it make sense to arrive at that judgment having already received the imputed righteousness of Christ, instead of standing in your own self-righteousness? If you've got the righteousness of the Judge, Genesis 18:25, you'll be just fine. In fact, having the righteousness of the Judge is the only way you'll be just fine. Don't you love it when a plan comes together?

The physical, bodily resurrection of Christ is: **1.** a vital part of the gospel, and, **2.** God's assurance to all men everywhere, that God IS going to judge the world in righteousness. Do you think the Athenians knew that Paul was talking about the Lord Jesus Christ? \_\_\_\_\_ If you intend to work your way to heaven by keeping the law, you have chosen an impossible task. Here's how Jesus views the idea of working your way to heaven.

*"For I say unto you, That except your righteousness shall exceed the righteousness of the scribes and Pharisees, ye shall in no case enter into the kingdom of heaven."* Matthew 5:20.  
According to Jesus, case closed - you're not even close.

### **The Four Thousand Year Old Lie**

If we could journey back in time to [Abraham's day, in 1996 BC](#), we would discover a startling truth. Even four thousand years ago, the human race would rather trust their works righteousness than trust God's righteousness. That reveals an incredible lack of self-knowledge, a distressing lack of self-awareness. The four thousand year old lie is that, we all contain a spark of divinity which, somehow, almost like magic, makes our good intentions and our human works acceptable to God, for salvation. Of course, that ancient lie has never helped save anyone, yet people persist in believing it.

Friend, don't believe the four thousand year old lie. Our zealous good works and good intentions, if we trust them for our righteousness instead of trusting the righteousness of Christ, will take us straight to hell. That is the eternally fatal mistake Israel and Israelites made. They ignored Isaiah's inspired declaration of truth.

*"5 - But he was wounded for our transgressions, he was bruised for our iniquities: the chastisement of our peace was upon him; and with his stripes we are healed. 6 - All we like sheep have gone astray; we have turned every one to his own way; and the LORD hath laid on him the iniquity of us all." Isaiah 53:5-6.*

Many professing Christians also believe the Satanic lie of works righteousness. They believe their good intentions or their good works are what keep them saved. Of course, works righteousness is never taught in the Bible. Inspired scripture tells us: God justifies the ungodly (not the godly), Romans 4:5.

*"But we are all as an unclean thing, and all our righteousnesses are as filthy rags; and we all do fade as a leaf; and our iniquities, like the wind, have taken us away."* Isaiah 64:6.

*"But to him that worketh not, but believeth on him that justifieth the ungodly, his faith is counted for righteousness."* Romans 4:5.

Jesus made clear this truth about righteousness, early in his earthly ministry. The finest Jews in Israel had no chance of getting to heaven by keeping the law of Moses to earn righteousness and then offering their works righteousness to God, instead of trusting God's righteousness. To work your way to heaven, you had to be holier and keep the law better than the scribes and Pharisees. Average Israelites did not have easy access to the law of Moses. They didn't have individual, personal copies of the law of Moses, so they could not read the law at night, to learn what it said and attempt to obey it.

Jesus said: *"For I say unto you, That except your righteousness shall exceed the righteousness of the scribes and Pharisees, ye shall in no case enter into the kingdom of heaven."* Matthew 5:20.

The scribes and Pharisees spent years reading, studying and memorizing the law of Moses. They knew it by heart, therefore, theoretically at least, they had a better chance of keeping it. How could any Israelite, who had never read the law for himself, have any chance of keeping all of it? Do you see what a serious problem Jesus pointed out in Matthew 5:20? \_\_\_\_\_

By the time Paul writes Romans, Israel has had about twenty five years to debate and think about this topic of righteousness.

*“But seek ye first the kingdom of God, and his righteousness; and all these things shall be added unto you.”* Matthew 6:33.

**and going about to establish their own righteousness,** - In the OT, under the law of Moses, on the law side of Calvary, that’s exactly what Israel was supposed to be doing, Deuteronomy 6:24-25 - keeping the law of Moses from a good heart and establishing their own righteousness. But now, in the NT, on the grace side of Calvary, after Messiah’s death for our sins and His glorious resurrection, Israel is supposed to believe on Messiah Jesus, and that wasn’t happening.

*“And be found in him, not having mine own righteousness, which is of the law, but that which is through the faith of Christ, the righteousness which is of God by faith:”* Philippians 3:9.

Israel had a real problem with pride, religious zeal, unbelief and lack of faith. They lacked personal righteousness but had plenty of self-righteousness. Because they were educated, wealthy and elect/chosen by God, they wouldn’t humble themselves and come to God by faith, like the publicans and harlots.

Funny how that unconditional election and irresistible grace stuff never worked for the Jews. Unsaved Israelites had an overly optimistic view of themselves and their own righteousness. That is a problem many people also struggle with in the twenty first century.

*“For John came unto you in the way of righteousness, and ye believed him not: but the publicans and the harlots believed him: and ye, when ye had seen it, repented not afterward, that ye might believe him.”* Matthew 21:32.

If you insist on working to earn righteousness, sometimes called, working your way to heaven, your work never equals God’s grace. Work places God in debt to you and cancels grace. If you insist on working to earn your salvation, God will insist on NOT saving you. If you insist on NOT getting saved, God will, eventually, insist on sending you to hell. Remember what we learned in our study of Romans 4:5.

The Jews believed that Abraham had kept the law of God perfectly and that’s why God counted it to him for righteousness. Israelites believed that Abraham was justified by works. That’s why they refused to abandon their reliance on

works and trust Christ alone for salvation. Their thinking was: If it's good enough for father Abraham, it's good enough for us.

“We find that Abraham our father performed the entire Torah [even] before it was given, as it says, *“Because Abraham listened to my voice, and observed my statutes, my commandments, laws and and teachings.”* Genesis 26:5.”

Genesis 26:5 is the basis for this Jewish belief about works. Job 22:22 and 23:12 explain that, in the patriarchal age, God conveyed His statutes, commandments, laws and teachings verbally or *“from his mouth.”* Jews believed that Abraham kept the Torah (the law of Moses) before it was written down, and so, God justified him based on his works. [Mishnah Kiddushin 4:14](#).

“For Abraham was perfect in all his deeds with the Lord, and well-pleasing in righteousness all the days of his life; and behold, he did not complete four jubilees in his life, when he had grown old by reason of the wickedness, and was full of his days.” Book of Jubilees 23:10.

Jubilees was written around 105 BC. It shows us the Jewish view of Abraham and his works righteousness, 163 years before Paul wrote Romans in AD 58.

1. The Gospel has been offered to all - Romans 10:12.
2. The Gospel is within the reach of all - Romans 10:13.
- 3. The Gospel has not been obeyed by all - Romans 10:3, 16.**

**have not submitted themselves unto the righteousness of God.** - This answers the question: Why didn't Israel get saved? The problem was, Israelites kept trying to work their way to heaven, by keeping the law of Moses, instead of trusting Messiah Jesus alone. Trying to work your way to heaven is the opposite of submitting yourself to the righteousness of God. Israel did not submit themselves to the righteousness of God. Israel did not believe on and receive his Messiah, Jesus.

Submit means: agree with, give in to, yield to, the righteousness of God. So, when you submit yourself to the righteousness of God, that means: **1.** You agree with God's plan of salvation. You don't re-imagine it or add your own works to it or change it. You agree with it. **2.** Agreeing with it means, you believe on the Lord Jesus Christ alone as God's Messiah / Savior and get saved. **3.** You stop going about to establish your own righteousness and instead, trust the righteousness of Christ alone. **4.** You get in Christ by doing salvation God's way, by faith alone, not by doing salvation your way. The truth is, God will not change the way He deals with the human race, to accommodate your lack of faith.

You don't have to be an Israelite or become an Israelite to get saved. What you must do is, submit yourself to the righteousness of God. You must have faith. You must believe what God said in the Bible. God responds kindly and gently to belief and obedience. Cornelius the Roman centurion found that out and he is our example.

*"But in every nation he that feareth him, and worketh righteousness, is accepted with him."* Acts 10:35. Accepted doesn't mean saved. Salvation came to Cornelius when he believed on the Lord Jesus Christ. Dr. Luke, the human author of Acts, isn't teaching works righteousness. Cornelius in Acts 10 and 11 was not saved by his works or by working righteousness.

Cornelius is an example of what we taught about Romans 2:15. When a man obeys his conscience and does the right thing, as best he can according to his conscience, God will get to that man, whatever truth he needs to get saved. In the case of Cornelius, that involved God sending the apostle Peter to personally teach Cornelius and his household.

In Romans 10, Paul confronts, head on, yet with kind and gentle grace, the Jewish false teaching about works salvation. Paul's argument is: If Abraham, the greatest follower of God in the Old Testament, was justified by faith, not by his works, which is what the Torah says in Genesis 15:1-6, then none of you first century Israelites are justified by works, because God justifies the ungodly, by faith, Romans 4:5-6.

If Abraham had kept all of God's commandments, statutes and laws, he would have been Godly but as Paul points out, God justifies the ungodly, therefore, Abraham wasn't godly, therefore, contrary to Jewish teaching, Abraham wasn't justified by keeping commandments, statutes and laws. Paul says in Romans 4, that this truth was known to King David, one thousand years ago, therefore, every Israelite in the first century AD ought to know it too.

Getting saved and going to heaven depends on who and what you are trusting. If you trust that you are Moses' disciples, you're trusting the wrong thing. First century Israel claimed to be disciples of Moses, John 9:28 yet they wanted nothing to do with Messiah Jesus. Whose disciple are you? \_\_\_\_\_

*"Then they reviled him, and said, Thou art his disciple;  
but we are Moses' disciples."* John 9:28.

**4 - For Christ is the end of the law for righteousness to every one that believeth.**

**For Christ is the end of the law for righteousness** - Christ means Messiah. *Messiah is the end of the law for righteousness to every one that believeth.* To understand how shocking was this statement from Paul, we need to understand how Israelites viewed the law of Moses. To Israelites:

1. The law of Moses was a wonderful gift from God.
2. The law of Moses bound Israel to God with a yoke of love, Psalm 119:165.
3. The law of Moses identified Israel as God's chosen people.
4. The law of Moses identified Israel as God's peculiar treasure, Exodus 19:5.
5. The law of Moses set Israel apart from every other nation, Romans 3:2.
6. The law of Moses provided the sacrificial way to be right with God.
7. The sacrifices in the law of Moses contained the promise of Messiah.

Why did first century Israel reject Messiah Jesus, reject the gospel and reject the preaching and teaching of the apostle Paul? They did not have the faith of their father, Abraham, i.e., they refused to believe what God said. They were as lost and unsaved as the pagan Gentiles they loved to despise. Their zeal was religious zeal but not godly zeal. They were putting on a grand religious show but there was no spiritual substance behind the ceremonial show. Their true Messiah, Jesus, walking around in the flesh and doing miracles, did not sway their hard, stubborn hearts.

How does your heart respond to the truth of God? \_\_\_\_\_  
Is your heart receptive to God's leading and God's truth? \_\_\_\_\_

**For Christ** - Christ is from the Greek word, Χριστός christos, khre-stoss, which means Messiah or, anointed one. Messiah is from the Hebrew word, מָשִׁיחַ mashiyach, mä-she'-akh, which means Messiah, the king who would set up God's kingdom.

Christ is the end of the law for righteousness to every one that believeth. What does that mean? It means that the OT law is no longer the way to be righteous before God. Bringing sacrifices to the temple no longer works. Christ ended that because Christ is the end of the law for righteousness. What caused OT law keeping to stop being the way to be righteous before God? The answer is: Calvary and the gospel - the death of Christ for our sins, his burial and his resurrection according to the scriptures, 1 Corinthians 15:1-8.

First century Israel never learned this shocking truth. They never believed the gospel. They never believed what God said. They never believed on their Messiah. They kept clinging to their dead, legalistic religion, even after God stopped blessing it. Remember what happened in Matthew 27:51-53? The great

veil of the temple, which hid the holy of holies, *was rent in twain from the top to the bottom*. The priests in the temple knew beyond all doubt that God Himself had defiled His temple, by unveiling the holy of holies. As if that wasn't enough, many bodies of the saints which slept, arose, And came out of the graves after his resurrection, and went into the holy city, and appeared unto many.

People down the ages have done exactly what Israel did - ignore everything God showed them, refuse to believe what God told them and cling to a dead religion instead of trusting Christ. People commit spiritual suicide when they embrace false systems of salvation and false religions, while also rejecting the biblical Jesus. God provides only one way of salvation full and free and that is in our Lord, Jesus Christ.

Why is Christ *the end of the law for righteousness*? "*He that speaketh of himself seeketh his own glory: but he that seeketh his glory that sent him, the same is true, and no unrighteousness is in him.*" John 7:18. That is our Lord Jesus Christ, referring to Himself in the third person, testifying to His own sinlessness. Christ came to earth with all the righteousness of His eternal deity.

On earth, He kept all the righteousness of the law, *and no unrighteousness is in Him*. For those reasons, when God saves you, He takes away your sins and, in exchange, gives you the righteousness of Christ as a free gift of His amazing grace. Aren't you glad you've been given the righteousness of Christ? \_\_\_\_\_ That truth is part of the message of grace in the gospel which we share with a lost and dying world.

**God put all my sins upon Christ and in exchange,  
gave me the righteousness of Christ.**

*"All we like sheep have gone astray; we have turned every one to his own way; and the LORD hath laid on him the iniquity of us all."* Isaiah 53:6.

How can Christ legally be *the end of the law for righteousness*? He can be the end of the law for righteousness because Jesus satisfied all the demands of God's law. Our iniquity, our sins were, literally, *laid on Him*, Isaiah 53:6. The demands of the law were holiness, purity, sinless perfection, absolute righteousness, keeping 100% of the law 100% of the time. God imputed my sins to Christ so He could impute Christ's righteousness to me.

**End of the law** means both fulfillment and terminus. Jesus fulfilled everything God's law required. By fulfilling every demand of the law, Christ is the end of the law and the terminus of the law, for righteousness. Now, because of Calvary and

the resurrection, no one anywhere ever has to keep God's law, aka, the law of Moses, to earn righteousness. On the grace side of Calvary, righteousness is the gift of God, freely imputed to everyone who believes on Jesus.

How can God legally take away your sins? God can legally take away and forgive all your sins because He imputed your sins to Christ, meaning, God laid your sins on Jesus, Isaiah 53:6. On the cross, Jesus paid for all your sins. Impute means that God laid on Jesus, all of your sins, so that Jesus could pay for them with His shed blood, with His life because, *the life of the flesh is in the blood*, Leviticus 17:11. When you believe on Jesus, God saves you and imputes to you the perfect righteousness of Christ.

*“All we like sheep have gone astray; we have turned every one to his own way; and the LORD hath laid on him the iniquity of us all.”* Isaiah 53:6.

**You sins were imputed to Christ, so that  
Christ's righteousness can be imputed to you.**

How can I be sure that God the Father accepted the payment Christ made for my sins? You can be sure that God accepted Jesus' payment for your sins because God raised Jesus from the dead, Romans 8:11. If the payment Jesus made was not enough, God wouldn't have raised Him from the dead. The resurrection of Christ is your guarantee that God accepted the payment Jesus made for your sins, that God is satisfied with the payment Jesus made for your sins, Isaiah 53:11. Now, if you want to be saved, you need to be satisfied with the payment Jesus made for your sins.

**to every one that believeth.** - Believing on Jesus as the One who satisfied God by paying for your sins is the most basic aspect of salvation. God never saved anyone anywhere before they believed on Jesus. If someone tells you that God must regenerate and save you first, before you can believe on Jesus, you know you're talking to a Bible denying, religious fool.

Christ isn't the end of the law for righteousness, to every one who doesn't believe. People who teach that God saves you before you believe on Christ are full of foolishness. Christ is only the end of the law for righteousness to every one that believeth. How does anyone today, get the righteousness of Christ?  
\_\_\_\_\_ It's as simple as believing.

In the Bible, belief always comes before salvation and before justification. Salvation and justification never come to anyone anywhere anytime, before belief or apart from belief. Is that a truth you believe? \_\_\_\_\_  
Is it false teaching to teach people the opposite of that biblical truth? \_\_\_\_\_

The TULIP people tell us that believing and faith are works and therefore, because men are Totally Depraved and Totally Unable to believe on Jesus or have faith in Jesus, God must regenerate you first and save you first, before you can believe on Jesus. They say if you believe on Jesus and have faith in Jesus to get saved, then you're trying to get saved by works. They say that in spite of the fact that the Bible is explicitly clear that believing and faith are not works.

*“But to him that worketh not,  
but believeth on him that justifieth the ungodly,  
his faith is counted for righteousness.” Romans 4:5.*

1. In Romans 4:5, is Paul teaching us that believing is a work? \_\_\_\_\_
2. In Romans 4:5, is Paul teaching us that believing is not a work? \_\_\_\_\_
3. In Romans 4:5, is Paul teaching us that faith is a work? \_\_\_\_\_
4. In Romans 4:5, is Paul teaching us that faith is not a work? \_\_\_\_\_
5. In Romans 4:5, is believing on Jesus a work that saves you? \_\_\_\_\_
6. In Romans 4:5, is faith in Christ a work that saves you? \_\_\_\_\_
7. If people ignore the crystal clarity of Romans 4:5 and teach the opposite, that believing and faith are works, are they teaching a lie? \_\_\_\_\_
8. Since faith is counted for righteousness in Romans 4:5, you must have belief and faith before God will save you, right? \_\_\_\_\_
9. In the Bible, has God's plan of salvation ever been: Don't believe and don't have faith, and I will save you? \_\_\_\_\_ If Yes, please list the verses. \_\_\_\_\_

**Believing is the absolute biblical prerequisite for getting saved.**

You must believe first, in order to get saved. That's clearly what the Bible says, Acts 16:30-31, Romans 10:9-10. If you don't believe first, God will not regenerate you, will not save you, will not justify you by faith. God never saves or regenerates or justifies anyone by faith before they believe. Is that a rock solid, Bible fact? \_\_\_\_\_ Can you think of any Bible verses which say that God saves you before you believe. \_\_\_\_\_

**If you can find any Bible verse that says God saves you  
before you believe, I'll give you a million dollar bill.**

If the Bible doesn't say, God saves you before you believe, then you shouldn't believe that or teach that, right? \_\_\_\_\_ Belief here is not simple mental assent; it is an act of personal trust in God. For Abraham, it is believing that God will keep His word and provide Abraham a beloved son. Remember, Abraham grew up in heathen idolatry as an idol worshiping, uncircumcised, pagan Gentile.

For Abraham, believing on him that justifies the ungodly is appropriating faith, the kind of faith that takes hold of God's promise, believes God's promise and acts on God's promise. Abraham believed God would keep His promise, based on God's faithful word, not based on good works of any kind, that Abraham did.

In the Bible, believing and faith are never considered good works. Why is it reasonable to understand Romans 4:5 as teaching that believing is not a work?

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*“But to him that worketh not,  
but believeth on him that justifieth the ungodly,  
his faith is counted for righteousness.” Romans 4:5.*

1. Abraham was saved by his good works. True or False.
2. Abraham was saved before he believed God's promise. True or False.
3. Abraham's works had only a small part in saving him. True or False.
4. Abraham was incapable of believing God. True or False.
5. Abraham had to get saved before he could believe. True or False.
6. Some teach that salvation comes before belief. Is that taught anywhere in the Bible? Yes or No. - If yes, in which verses is that taught? \_\_\_\_\_
7. If Abraham hadn't believed God, would he have been saved? Yes or No.
8. If Abraham had waited for God to save him without believing, would Abraham be in heaven now, Romans 4:3? Yes or No.
9. Which is the order of salvation in the Bible, Romans 4:3, for example? **a.** Get saved without believing, then believe. **b.** Believe first, then you are saved.
10. If anyone reverses that biblical order and says, You need to get saved before you can believe, is that a false, unbiblical teaching? Yes or No.
11. God only justifies the godly. True or False.
12. God only justifies the ungodly. True or False.
13. Does God ever justify godly people? Yes - No.
14. Is it true that everyone is ungodly and needs to get saved? \_\_\_\_\_

### **It's important to understand this.**

Every religion on earth, except biblical Christianity, teaches that the more you work and the harder you work, the more you earn God's favor, the more points you pile up, the more righteous you are, the more you deserve to be saved, the more God is inclined to save you. If you work hard enough, long enough and do religious things from a sincere heart and with good intentions, say unsaved folks, you're piling up righteousness and God will accept you and save you because of your righteous works. Many unsaved people believe that doing

righteous good works will cause God to justify the Godly. Is that a workable plan according to Romans 4:5 and 10:4? Yes or No? Why? \_\_\_\_\_

The nature of saving faith is that it recognizes its own lack of righteousness and trusts God to justify the ungodly, Romans 4:5. Never in the history of the universe has God justified a godly man. To be justified by faith without works and be given the righteousness of God as a free gift repudiates personal goodness, repudiates religiosity, repudiates religious good works, repudiates any claim to being godly, repudiates personal righteousness.

None of those things brings justification. God joyfully justifies the ungodly when they believe Him, Romans 4:5. We are all capable of believing like Abraham believed. Are you ungodly \_\_\_\_\_? Have you believed on the Lord Jesus Christ as your Savior? \_\_\_\_\_ Have you been justified by faith? \_\_\_\_\_ Did you earn justification by your good works or are you justified by faith in Christ alone?

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Paul is arguing against works of the law to get saved and against everyone else who trusts religious good works to justify them before God. Post-modern people believe that all religions are good and all religions lead to heaven. They say: "We're all on the same journey - We're just taking different paths." Of course, that is a Bible denying, Satanic lie.

Every religion except biblical Christianity rejects the truth of Romans 4:5 and 10:4 and teaches the religious lie that God justifies the godly. God never has and God never will justify the godly. God justifies the ungodly. Do you understand that? Post-modern people hate, loathe and despise the idea that God only justifies the ungodly because they don't think of themselves as ungodly. First century Jews also believed the lie, that God justifies the godly. They taught that Abraham was justified by his religious good works. Paul refutes that belief in Romans chapter 4 and takes another painful jab at that belief in Romans 10:4.

### **God never justifies the godly.**

Israelites in the first century AD, viewed themselves as godly and they intended to be justified by their own good works and law keeping, just like they believed their father Abraham was justified by his good works and law keeping, John 8:39. Paul says something shocking, the last thing Jews ever expected him to say. God will never justify good people. God never justifies the godly. You might want to memorize that.

God only justifies the ungodly, Romans 4:5. "Well Paul, isn't that a mean and negative way to preach? Paul, how can you be so full of hatred for your fellow

man? How can you be so dismissive of other fine religions? Why do you always have to focus on the negative?”

To make his case in Romans 4:5, Paul takes Abraham as Exhibit A. If God didn't justify Abraham based on his religious good works, God will not justify anyone based on their religious good works. Let's be honest. As far as human good works and godliness are concerned, you couldn't hold a candle to Abraham. If Abraham couldn't work his way to heaven or into God's good graces, then neither can you and neither can Israel.

**5 - For Moses describeth the righteousness which is of the law, That the man which doeth those things shall live by them.**

**For Moses describeth the righteousness which is of the law**, - Paul had a high regard for scripture, especially the law of Moses, as did many other Israelites, including some unsaved Israelites. It was common belief in Israel, that: **a.** scripture came from and was given by God, Exodus 17:14, 24:4, 34:27, Psalm 12:6-7, 68:11, Romans 3:2, and, **b.** scripture must be listened to and obeyed, Deuteronomy 12:28, 28:1, 30:10. Moses was unmistakably clear about that, as was his protégé, Joshua, in Joshua 1:8.

King David wrote an entire chapter, 176 verses long, Psalm 119, about the importance of the written word. In the NT, Paul states the importance of written scripture in 2 Timothy 3:15-17, penned some years after he wrote Romans but something he had probably taught for years, during his evangelistic, church planting, disciple making ministry, before he wrote it down in his letter to Timothy.

**the righteousness which is of the law** - Deuteronomy 6:24-25 provides excellent insight into how Israelites had to keep, *the righteousness which is of the law*. Here's how it worked in the OT, for Jews under the law of Moses.

*“24 - And the LORD commanded us to do all these statutes,  
to fear the LORD our God, for our good always,  
that he might preserve us alive, as it is at this day.*

*25 - And it shall be our righteousness, if we observe to do all these  
commandments before the LORD our God, as he hath commanded us.”*  
Deuteronomy 6:24-25.

The penalties for violating OT law were harsh. Deuteronomy 28 and 29 point out how serious God is, about keeping the law. Israelites living under the law of

Moses had to do all the statutes and keep all the commandments, in order to be right with God. Beyond simply keeping the law, they had to keep - all the statutes and keep all the commandments - with all their heart and all their soul.

In plainer words, it wasn't enough to simply keep the law. They had to keep the law with a true heart toward God. That is important because Paul is getting ready, here in Romans chapter 10, to quote Deuteronomy 30:11-14. He doesn't quote Deuteronomy 30:10 so we include it here to provide context.

*“If thou shalt hearken unto the voice of the LORD thy God, to keep his commandments and his statutes which are written in this book of the law, and if thou turn unto the LORD thy God with all thine heart, and with all thy soul.”* Deuteronomy 30:10.

Think about it. If the Israelites had been keeping God's commandments with all their heart and all their soul, they would have joyfully believed on Jesus as their Messiah. Does that make sense to you? \_\_\_\_\_ The reason they rejected Messiah Jesus is, they didn't believe the law of Moses, John 5:44-47, they were not keeping the law of Moses, John 7:19, and, according to Jesus, faith (the faith of Abraham) wasn't important to them, Matthew 23:23.

Almost everyone in the church age, from the resurrection of Christ to the rapture, views righteousness the wrong way. People have their fallen, fleshly, man-centric religious view of righteousness, instead of the biblical view, meaning, God's view, as found in the Bible. No one ever gets saved until he tunes in to God's view of righteousness.

**That the man which doeth those things shall live by them.** - Religious southerners in America sometimes say: “Well preacher, I believe you gotta live it.” That view of attaining salvation, that you gotta live it, is a surefire way to go to hell. The problem in the Bible is that Israelites who rejected Messiah Jesus, believed the same false teaching that modern religious southerners believe. They thought you had to live it and if you lived it, and worked hard at it, that would earn you enough righteousness to satisfy God.

Religious southerners think you can work your way to heaven by piling up righteous good works, by living it. First century, Christ rejecting Israelites thought you had to live it by keeping the law of Moses, and that would be good enough to please God and earn you enough righteousness to get to heaven. Paul kicked that false teaching to the curb in Romans 9:32. According to Romans 9:32, why didn't Israel get saved? \_\_\_\_\_

Every Israelite in the first century AD and every religious southerner in the USA knew, in his heart, he couldn't live it and didn't live it. In John 7:19, Jesus, the Incarnate Word and the Creator of everything, testified that the Jews didn't live it. Do you believe the testimony of Jesus on that issue? \_\_\_\_\_ The Jews figured God didn't really mean Deuteronomy 28 and 29. Jews in the Bible rejected that old, fear based religion, which, interestingly enough, came direct from Jesus.

*“The fear of the LORD is the beginning of wisdom:  
and the knowledge of the holy is understanding.” Proverbs 9:10.*

*“There is no fear of God before their eyes.” Romans 3:18.*

*“And fear not them which kill the body, but are not able to kill the soul: but rather fear him which is able to destroy both soul and body in hell.” Matthew 10:28.*

Israel figured God would make an exception for them every time they failed to obey, failed to believe, failed to have faith, failed to live it. Paul was no tenderfoot. Rome wasn't his first rodeo. He loved his Israelite brethren enough that he wouldn't let them get away with proud, arrogant, self-destructive religious thinking, which would haunt them in hell for all eternity. And so, Paul wrote Romans chapter 10.

**6 - But the righteousness which is of faith speaketh on this wise, Say not in thine heart, Who shall ascend into heaven? (that is, to bring Christ down from above:)**

As we study these verses, it helps to remind ourselves of some Bible basics that every Christian should know. **1.** Is God the ultimate author of the Bible? \_\_\_\_\_ **2.** Is Paul the human author of Romans? \_\_\_\_\_ **3.** Is what Paul wrote in Romans, given by inspiration of God, 2 Timothy 3:16? \_\_\_\_\_ Paul is going to quote Deuteronomy 30, in this section of Romans. **4.** Who is the human author of Deuteronomy? \_\_\_\_\_ **5.** Who is the ultimate author of Deuteronomy? \_\_\_\_\_ **6.** As the ultimate author of the entire Bible, does God have the right to assign meaning to what He has written, or, to add additional meaning in the NT, to what was previously written in the OT? **a.** Yes, of course God has that right. **b.** No, God doesn't have that right.

One of the main purposes of the Bible is, to introduce God to us in the way He deems best and most helpful so that we can understand Him. The Bible is about how God created the heavens and the earth, how God created the human race, how the human race, through the first Adam, rebelled against God and fell into

sin, and how God made provision to redeem and restore the human race, through the last Adam, the Lord Jesus Christ.

In the Bible, the birth of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ, occurs in the NT, in the fortieth book of the Bible, Matthew 1:18, not in the OT, not in the first thirty nine books of the Bible. Don't however, let that truth cause you to think that Jesus isn't found in the OT. Here is what Jesus taught us about how He most definitely is found in the OT.

### **Jesus is found throughout the OT**

*“Search the scriptures; for in them ye think ye have eternal life: and they are they which testify of me.”* Jesus, in John 5:39.

When Jesus said that, the only part of the Bible that had been written was the thirty nine books of the OT. Therefore, *scriptures* in John 5:39, refers to the OT. Since, in John 5:39, the word, *scriptures* refers to the writings of the OT, then according to Jesus, the OT testifies about Jesus. We know that, *scriptures*, refers to the OT because, none of the NT had been written at the time Jesus made that statement.

*“46 - For had ye believed Moses, ye would have believed me: for he wrote of me.  
But if ye believe not his writings,  
how shall ye believe my words?”* John 5:46-47.

Did you get that? Please don't miss what Jesus told the Jews. According to Jesus, Moses wrote about Jesus! The problem the Jews had was, they didn't believe what Moses wrote, John 5:45-47, and therefore, they couldn't see Jesus in the OT, even though, according to Jesus, He is found all through the OT. The Jews deliberate rejection of truth, their deliberate unbelief, blinded their eyes to the truth of scripture so much that they couldn't see Jesus in their OT, because they had closed their own eyes, Acts 28:27.

Are you harboring unbelief which blinds you to God's truth in scripture?  
\_\_\_\_\_ In Romans 10, Paul is about to quote Deuteronomy 30, to get faithless, unbelieving Israel to see Jesus in the OT. Where do you see Jesus in the OT? \_\_\_\_\_

*“Then he took unto him the twelve, and said unto them, Behold, we go up to Jerusalem, and all things that are written by the prophets concerning the Son of man shall be accomplished.”* Luke 18:31.

Everything written about Jesus in the OT, will be accomplished, including things we may not understand yet, including things we may not even know about or recognize yet.

“25 - *Then he said unto them, O fools, and slow of heart to believe all that the prophets have spoken:*

26 - *Ought not Christ to have suffered these things, and to enter into his glory?*

27 - *And beginning at Moses and all the prophets, he expounded unto them in all the scriptures the things concerning himself.*” Luke 24:25-27.

Jesus, according to Jesus, is found in the writings of Moses, in all the prophets and in all the scriptures. Jesus knows what He is talking about since He is the word made flesh, John 1:14, and, as God, is also the ultimate author of the Bible. Isn't that fascinating? Can you list the five books of Moses in the OT?

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### **Are you listening, as righteousness speaks?**

**But the righteousness which is of faith speaketh on this wise,** - The righteousness which is of faith is Christ's righteousness. Christ didn't earn that righteousness by keeping the law during His life on earth as Messiah. Jesus came to earth, as God in the flesh, already possessing perfect righteousness, as one of the attributes of God. That's the imputed righteousness you get when you believe on Jesus and God saves you.

The great need of every Israelite and every Gentile is to get *the righteousness which is of faith*. The only place to get *the righteousness which is of faith* is Calvary, or, in plainer words, from believing on the Lord Jesus Christ Himself. If you want the righteousness which is of faith, you must get in Christ. Every unsaved sinner on earth needs the righteousness of Christ. Without the *righteousness* of Christ, Israel has no hope of heaven. How does someone get, in Christ? \_\_\_\_\_

Israel cannot reject what Moses wrote, John 5:42-47, and still have fellowship with God. Israel cannot reject Messiah Jesus, sent by Jehovah God, as her Redeemer and Savior, John 5:40, and still get the blessing of God. To get the righteousness God requires, Israel needs to understand that *the righteousness which is of faith* is far superior to the righteousness which is by works. On the grace side of Calvary, God will not accept the works righteousness of anyone anywhere.

These verses in Romans 10 are not complicated, when we think about them in the context of Deuteronomy 30. To grasp the context of Deuteronomy 30, you may need to read Deuteronomy 28-32 over and over until it makes sense to you. Don't be slap dash in your Bible reading and Bible study. Take time to focus on the Bible and learn the Bible.

When Paul quotes Deuteronomy 30, by inspiration of God, 2 Timothy 3:15-17, he references the Incarnation in verse 6 - *to bring Christ down from above*, and the Resurrection in verse 7 - *to bring up Christ again from the dead*.

*“6 - But the righteousness which is of faith speaketh on this wise, Say not in thine heart, Who shall ascend into heaven? (that is, to bring Christ down from above:) 7 - Or, Who shall descend into the deep? (that is, to bring up Christ again from the dead.)” Romans 10:6-7.*

What life changing, history altering event happened between the Incarnation of Christ and the Resurrection of Christ? \_\_\_\_\_

In Romans 10:6-7, Paul is quoting Deuteronomy 30:11-14. Do you see Christ in the OT now? Christ coming down from heaven to take on human flesh is the Incarnation. Bringing Christ up again from the dead is the Resurrection. All scripture is given by inspiration of God. God, the ultimate author of scripture, showed Paul that Deuteronomy 30 is about Jesus. Can you see Jesus in the OT now? \_\_\_\_\_

Let's carefully think this through. By inspiration, God gave Moses the truth that Moses wrote in the book of Deuteronomy. By inspiration, God gave Paul the truth that Paul wrote in the book of Romans. Also by inspiration, God gave Paul the additional knowledge to understand that the verses he quotes from Deuteronomy 30, are about Jesus and the crucifixion and resurrection of Christ for our sins. That is the gospel, hidden in plain sight in Deuteronomy 30.

God also expects us to believe that, what He showed Paul, is the true prophetic meaning of what Moses wrote. Israel balked at believing Jesus. They made a conscious decision to reject God's truth about Jesus, their Messiah.

Some Christians balk at believing Paul and make a conscious decision to reject the truth God gave to Paul by inspiration. The Israelites should have believed Moses and Jesus and Paul. They had the ability to believe. God commanded them to believe, Deuteronomy 30:15-20. Had they believed, they would have been saved. By the same token, unsaved Israelites, and Christians, should believe Paul, when he cites Deuteronomy 30 and tells us it is talking about Jesus.

**Say not in thine heart, Who shall ascend into heaven?** - The idea of ascending into heaven calls to mind Lucifer's proclamation: *I will ascend into heaven*, above the throne of God and take over heaven, in Isaiah 14:12-15. Chronologically in time, that rebellion occurred in the past, before Moses wrote the book of Genesis and before the creation of the world. Lucifer's rebellion was the original rebellion, predating all other rebellions. Paul writes: *Say not in thine heart, Who shall ascend into heaven*. Isaiah records the words of Lucifer.

*"For thou (Lucifer) hast said in thine heart, I will ascend into heaven, I will exalt my throne above the stars of God: I will sit also upon the mount of the congregation, in the sides of the north:"* Isaiah 14:13.

Is it clear that both Moses and Paul must have had Isaiah 14 in mind when they wrote what they wrote? This brings to mind the tower of Babel in Genesis 11:4. The ancients knew there was a God. They knew He was somewhere up in heaven and they desired to get up there with him.

Nimrod and his followers wanted to build a *tower, whose top may reach unto heaven*. In other words, they wanted to *ascend into heaven*. In Genesis 28:12, Jacob dreamed of a *ladder set up on the earth, and the top of it reached to heaven*. When Paul writes: *Say not*, he is warning Israel the same way the Lord Jesus Christ warned Israel. Don't follow Satan in your speech or in your thinking.

*"Ye are of your father the devil, and the lusts of your father ye will do. He was a murderer from the beginning, and abode not in the truth, because there is no truth in him. When he speaketh a lie, he speaketh of his own: for he is a liar, and the father of it."* John 8:44.

Everyone who fights against God loses the fight. **1.** Lucifer failed to ascend above the throne of God. **2.** The tower of Babel never even got close to reaching heaven. **3.** All Jacob could do was dream about a ladder reaching from earth to heaven. On the other hand, the apostle Paul really did ascend to heaven, by the power of God, 2 Corinthians 12:2-4. Paul's absolutely real visit to heaven may have happened in Acts 14:19, when Paul was stoned, dragged out of the city and left for dead.

Ascending into heaven is to bring Christ down from above. Paul quotes Deuteronomy 30 and by inspiration from God, adapts it to his purpose in Romans. Here's the truth that Paul conveys to us.

**Say not in thine heart** - It's important to notice that Paul says, *Say not in thine heart* or, Don't do that. Paul, by inspiration of God, says more than Moses wrote.

Moses discourages anyone from trying to ascend to heaven or even imagining doing that, in your heart. Paul's thought is: "You don't have to ascend into heaven to find your Messiah. He has already come and, twenty five years ago, you rejected Him. You've been wondering, in your heart, ever since, Did we do the right thing when we rejected Jesus, who claimed to be our Messiah? If only we could ascend to heaven and see Him again. Then we could believe on Him."

**Who shall ascend into heaven?** - At the rapture, according to Paul and God, everyone who is saved is going to ascend into heaven, by the power of God, 1 Thessalonians 4:13-18. But Paul isn't talking about the rapture here. He is talking about fleshly religious efforts to get to heaven, instead of trusting Christ and getting saved by grace through faith.

**(that is, to bring Christ down from above:)** - Religious people love to complicate everything about salvation. Instead of the simplicity of salvation as a free gift of God's grace, religious people want a complex system of sacrifices and works. Paul knows a lot of truth that the unsaved Israelites don't know. The next time Jesus comes to earth, He will not come as a little baby, gentle Jesus, meek and mild. When He comes the next time, it will be with power and great glory. No one will scourge Him or nail Him to a cross. No one will mock Him.

Paul must have been thinking: "In your unsaved, unbelieving, unfaithful condition, you Israelites definitely don't want Christ to come back now;" - *bring Christ down from above*. Why not now? Well, for starters, because this is what happens the next time Jesus comes to earth: 2 Thessalonians 1:8-10 (and Revelation 19:11-21).

*"8 - In flaming fire taking vengeance on them that know not God,  
and that obey not the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ:  
9 - Who shall be punished with everlasting destruction  
from the presence of the Lord, and from the glory of his power;  
10 - When he shall come to be glorified in his saints,  
and to be admired in all them that believe  
(because our testimony among you was believed ) in that day."  
2 Thessalonians 1:8-10.*

Remember, God and Paul want every Israelite to get saved. When God saves them, the Holy Spirit spiritually baptizes them (no water involved), into the body of Christ, 1 Corinthians 12:13. That spiritual baptism puts them in Christ. Where is Christ right now? He is in heaven, at the right hand of the Father. So if an Israelite gets saved, where is that Israelite, spiritually speaking? He has ascended into heaven and is seated *in heavenly places in Christ*, Ephesians 2:6.

There is no reason to try to, *bring Christ down from above*. God has already provided a fool-proof way for any sinner to get to heaven, instead of trying to bring Christ down from above, so you don't have to try to bring Christ down from above.

**7 - Or, Who shall descend into the deep? (that is, to bring up Christ again from the dead.)**

**Or, Who shall descend into the deep?** - As we read Romans 10:6-7, it helps to understand that Paul is probably referencing common topics of discussion, current in Israelite conversations in the first century, after the resurrection of Christ. Those topics of discussion included ascending to heaven and going down into the deep, where Jonah went when he was swallowed by the whale, Matthew 12:40, and where Israelites believed hell and paradise were located, in the heart of the earth.

*"If I ascend up into heaven, thou art there;  
if I make my bed in hell, behold, thou art there."* Psalm 139:8.

*"They shall go down to the bars of the pit,  
when our rest together is in the dust."* Job 17:16.

*"And said, I cried by reason of mine affliction unto the LORD, and he heard me;  
out of the belly of hell cried I, and thou heardest my voice.  
I went down to the bottoms of the mountains; the earth with her bars  
was about me for ever: yet hast thou brought up my life from corruption,  
O LORD my God."* Jonah 2:6.

*"8 - Wherefore he saith, When he ascended up on high,  
he led captivity captive, and gave gifts unto men.*

*9 - (Now that he ascended, what is it but that he also  
descended first into the lower parts of the earth?*

*10 - He that descended is the same also that ascended up  
far above all heavens, that he might fill all things.)" Ephesians 4:8-10.*

**(that is, to bring up Christ again from the dead.)** - Paul is obviously talking about the glorious gospel of Christ when he references the resurrection. Notice that Paul says, bring up Christ again. Christ had already resurrected. Christ is not going to resurrect again. The resurrection of Christ is a one time event, never to be repeated. God expects Israel to believe the truths prophesied in the OT and the facts about the resurrection of Christ which have been preached to them in the first century time frame of the NT.

Remember what Jesus said in Matthew 12:38-40. God will not add in other signs and He will not make the resurrection happen time after time. This isn't the fakery of the Catholic mass, after all, which claims, every time, to be a fresh offering of Christ or, a bloody sacrifice in an unbloody manner, whatever that means. The only sign unbelieving Israel will get is the one time, bodily resurrection of Christ.

Paul is telling Israel that Messiah Jesus fulfilled what Moses wrote in Deuteronomy 30. What is Paul's strategy here? If what Paul writes is true, then Israel should joyfully believe and receive Jesus as her Messiah. This is the good news they have been waiting for. Messiah has come and died and resurrected and now, they may joyfully receive Him. The Israelites professed to believe Moses, even though, in reality, Jesus had already pointed out about 27 years earlier, that the Jews didn't believe what Moses wrote, John 5:44-46.

1. The Gospel has been offered to all - Romans 10:12-13.
- 2. The Gospel is within the reach of all - Romans 10:8-13.**
3. The Gospel has not been obeyed by all - Romans 10:3, 16.

**8 - But what saith it? The word is nigh thee, even in thy mouth, and in thy heart: that is, the word of faith, which we preach;**

**But what saith it? The word is nigh thee,** - Moses and Paul are focused on the word of God. What did Moses mean when he said, What saith it? He means, What does the scripture in Deuteronomy chapter 30 say? You Israelites claim to believe Moses. Okay, put up or shut up. What did Moses say? Will you man up and believe what Moses said?

What did Moses mean when he said, **The word is nigh thee?** Nigh means, near. Moses meant that the word of God is accessible to you right now. The word isn't far off; the word is in your mouth and in your heart. You can believe the word about Jesus your Messiah, if you want to believe it. Believing is a decision of your will, just like unbelief is a decision of your will. Is that a clear biblical truth or is it hard to understand? \_\_\_\_\_

**The message of salvation in the Lord Jesus Christ  
is as near as your mouth and your heart.  
Salvation is not distant and unobtainable.**

How is the word nigh them or near them? Remember, Paul wrote Romans about 25 years after the resurrection of Christ. At the time Paul writes Romans, there are still people alive who had heard and seen Christ in His earthly ministry. The

words of Christ were still fresh in the minds of many people because, *never man spake like this man*, John 7:46. When Paul quotes Moses to tell Israelites and Romans: *The word is nigh thee*, he means at least these five things.

**First**, the word is nigh them because Messiah Jesus had spent 3.5 years preaching the word to them, teaching and challenging them to believe the word He preached. People still remembered the gracious words of Jesus or had been told of the gracious words and mighty miracles of Jesus.

**Second**, the word is nigh them through the OT scriptures their rabbis read to them, in the synagogues every sabbath.

**Third**, the word is nigh them through the public preaching and teaching of the apostles and pastors and evangelists who testified to the life-changing power of the glorious gospel of Christ.

**Fourth**, the word is nigh them through the personal salvation testimonies of the scores of thousands of Israelites and Gentiles who got saved in the wonderful years after the resurrection of Christ.

**Fifth**, the word is nigh them through the discussions and debates Israelites had heard and taken part in for 25 years since the resurrection of Christ. The Lord Jesus Christ had been the subject of their thoughts and the topic of their debates and discussions since His glorious resurrection. The word is nigh them indeed. Because the word is nigh them, is it their responsibility to believe the word, obey the gospel and get saved? \_\_\_\_\_

The word is also nigh us in most of the ways it was nigh them and in a multitude of ways not available to people in the first century. We have personal copies of the entire Bible in book form and on our phones, tablets and computers. We can access preaching, teaching and Bible truth through Alexa and Siri, Facebook, Google Assistant, Instagram, Parler, Twitter, podcasts, apps, blogs, Youtube videos, websites and live streams and Zoom virtual meetings.

Because the word is nigh them, Paul says: “You don’t need to ascend to heaven or descend into the deep, to find Christ, anymore than your fathers did in Deuteronomy 30. Christ your Messiah was here, boots on the ground and He was available but you rejected Him and crucified Him.

You won’t find Him now, by going on a spiritual pilgrimage or, by ascending to heaven or descending into the deep. Stop looking in all the wrong places. You’re wasting your time in religious zeal and philosophical speculation, which keeps

you away from Messiah. The word is nigh thee, even in thy mouth, and in thy heart, right now.” You can get saved right now, Paul is saying, if you want to.

**even in thy mouth,** - *In thy mouth* because you’re discussing it, debating it and arguing about it, among yourselves. Some of you are even praying to God about Messiah. Truth about Messiah is on your own tongue, flowing from your own lips, occupying your own mind, swirling around in your brain. Christians and saved Jews and saved Gentiles are witnessing to you and you are questioning them about Messiah and salvation.

The word of faith is in your mouth, Paul says. You Israelites know that the real issue, the sticking point, is faith. Jesus pointed that out in Matthew 23:23. The word of faith is in your mouth. You Israelites are without excuse. You know God wants you to have the faith of Abraham and yet, you are rejecting the faith of Abraham, while claiming that Abraham is your father, John 8:39-44.

**and in thy heart:** - When Moses said this, he meant Deuteronomy 32:46. When Paul says it, he refers to current events in AD 57-58. Paul is saying: You wrestle with the truth you’ve heard about Jesus your Messiah, because you’ve seen the changed lives of your fellow Israelites who’ve gotten saved, your kinsmen who accepted the faith of Abraham.

You think about it in the daytime. You think about it at night. The truth is in your heart because God put it there, Romans 2:15. Why not just obey your God-given conscience (you’re capable of responding to your conscience, John 8:9), and receive Messiah Jesus? That is what it means, to have the faith of Abraham in the first century AD.

**that is, the word of faith, which we preach;** - Paul directs them back to the faith of Abraham. “When Messiah Jesus was here, you argued with Him. You told Him, *Abraham is our father and we are Abraham’s children,*” John 8:39. Paul appeals to their conscience and to their heart. Every Israelite also understood Jehovah to be their father, Deuteronomy 32:6, because that’s what Moses taught them.

Israelites were intensely focused on their physical descent from father Abraham, while ignoring the absolute necessity of also being spiritually descended from Abraham, meaning, God expected them to have the faith of Abraham. They wanted country club religion, all outward show with no heart belief and no heart conviction. That’s why Paul stresses believing in the heart in Romans 10:9-10.

Okay, reasons Paul. Abraham is your father and you are his children. Start acting like you are Abraham’s descendants and figure out how to have Abraham’s faith.

Abraham had faith, Genesis 15:1-6. You need to have the faith of Abraham and believe what God said about Messiah Jesus. Abraham believed in Messiah Jesus yet you Israelites reject Messiah Jesus. If you reject the faith of Abraham, God will reject you, Matthew 23:37-39.

Stop trusting the law of Moses and your religious rituals, while ignoring the faith of Abraham. When the veil of the temple was rent in twain from the top to the bottom, Matthew 27:51, OT Judaism and the law of Moses were officially over, Romans 10:4. Now is the time to believe on Messiah Jesus and get saved.

If you reject Jesus as your Messiah, you're making this about your physical descent from Abraham, when it should be about you having the faith of your father Abraham. All of this controversy is about you Israelites not having the faith of Abraham. Jesus told you truth about that and you rejected Him, Matthew 23:23, 37-39. You have a form of godliness in your dead, legalistic Judaism but you're denying the spiritual aspect, which is, having the faith of Abraham.

List some things that cause people to jerry rig their religion instead of trusting by faith alone in Christ alone for salvation? \_\_\_\_\_

Abraham believed in Messiah Jesus, John 8:56, Galatians 3:8,14. You Israelites should also believe in Messiah Jesus. It's nice to be physically descended from Abraham; that's an impressive lineage but that won't get you into heaven. You need to have the faith of Abraham. That's what your Messiah meant when He told Nicodemus: *Ye must be born again*, John 3:3, 7.

**the word of faith** - This is not the prosperity gospel, the word of faith, Jesus wants you well con that televangelists use to scam people out of millions of dollars or the word-faith false teaching of the name it and claim it, blab it and grab it crowd. The word of faith here means, the faith of Abraham or, faith in Jesus as Messiah and Savior.

In the context of the first century AD, the word of faith means, receiving Messiah Jesus, believing on Messiah Jesus, having faith in Messiah Jesus. Israel was biologically descended from father Abraham but Israel rejected Messiah Jesus and when they did that, they were rejecting the faith of Abraham. There is no way for any Israelite to get saved if they reject the faith of Abraham and Messiah Jesus.

**9 - That if thou shalt confess with thy mouth the Lord Jesus, and shalt believe in thine heart that God hath raised him from the dead, thou shalt be saved.**

**That if thou shalt confess with thy mouth the Lord Jesus,** - Paul has just told us that the word of faith is nigh them, even in their mouth and in their heart. It is only a small step of faith then, to use the same mouth that has been talking about Jesus, to confess Jesus as Messiah and Savior.

**That if thou shalt confess with thy mouth** - This is for everyone but in the first century historical context, in the book of Romans, Paul aims it specifically at Israelites who rejected Jesus as their Messiah. Paul has just told them: *“The word is nigh thee, even in thy mouth, and in thy heart: that is, the word of faith, which we preach; That if thou shalt confess with thy mouth.”*

This is where the rubber meets the road. Every Israelite was capable of believing on Messiah. Remember, belief is a choice. Belief is a decision of your will. I will believe, I DO believe on the Lord Jesus Christ. The glorious gospel of Christ contains the power to believe, Romans 1:16. God made getting saved as easy as it can possible be.

Is Paul writing that with his fingers crossed? Is he holding out false hope to people whom God didn't Unconditionally Elect to salvation and for whom Jesus didn't die? Either Paul is lying by offering them an empty promise which God has no intention of honoring or, Paul is, by inspiration of God, making unbelieving Israelites (and everyone else who believes) a genuine offer of salvation.

Does Romans 10:9-10 sound like Paul is teaching Total Depravity - that no human being anywhere can believe on the Lord Jesus Christ and get saved? \_\_\_\_

Does Romans 10:9-10 sound like Paul is teaching Unconditional Election - that God has already chosen a small number of people who will be saved without believing on Jesus, and no one else is capable of ever getting saved? \_\_\_\_\_

Does Romans 10:9-10 sound like Paul is teaching Limited Atonement - that Jesus only died for a small group whom He unconditionally elected to salvation, and didn't die for anyone else, therefore, no one else can get saved? \_\_\_\_\_

Does Romans 10:9-10 sound like Paul is teaching Irresistible Grace - that everyone who gets saved, gets saved against their will, without repenting, without believing the gospel, without believing what the Bible says, without believing on Jesus, without calling upon the name of the Lord? \_\_\_\_\_

Remember what the TULIP people actually teach. TULIP says: you cannot repent, you cannot believe, you cannot will to receive Jesus as your Savior, you

cannot call upon the name of the Lord, unless God saves and regenerates you first, before you do any of those things.

In plainer words, they teach that you get saved without repenting, without believing, without faith in Christ, without calling upon the name of the Lord. Then, once you're saved, you do all of that. That is unbiblical, unChristian, unGodly, unholy, untrue, false teaching. Why? Because the Bible never says that.

Paul is unmistakably clear in these verses. He believes every Israelite is savable because Jesus died for all, 1 Timothy 2:4-6, because God has reconciled the world to Himself on the basis of Christ's propitiation of God's wrath, Romans 3:25, 2 Corinthians 5:18-20, and therefore, every Israelite is capable of believing on Messiah Jesus, Romans 1:16.

Paul is upfront and exquisitely plain spoken. He isn't pouring on false piety by making insincere comments. The heart of the great apostle breaks for his fellow Israelites and he longs to see them saved, precisely because that is God's intention for all of them, Acts 17:30, 2 Peter 3:9. What part of *all men every where* don't you understand? Would God command *all men every where to repent*, if they were incapable of repenting? \_\_\_\_\_

**confess with thy mouth the Lord Jesus**, - This is public confession of Christ as Lord and Savior. This is publicly forsaking the law of Moses as your means of righteousness if you are a Jew, and publicly forsaking your pagan gods if you are a Gentile. In the Bible, after the resurrection Christ, there is no such thing as a secret disciple of Jesus. In the NT, during the earthly ministry of Christ, there were many secret disciples, John 12:42-43. Joseph of Arimathea was mentioned by name, as a disciple, but secretly, for fear of the Jews, John 19:38-42.

Nicodemus was a secret disciple of Jesus before the resurrection of Christ but in the NT, there is no mention of secret disciples of Jesus after the resurrection. When he writes here: *confess with thy mouth*, Paul is talking about public testimony, a public acknowledgement of Christ and a public identification with Christ as your Savior and a public forsaking of your former religion, whether Judaism or paganism. Rejecting Messiah Jesus and clinging to your Judaism or your paganism was a guaranteed one way ticket to eternity in a devil's hell.

**and shalt believe in thine heart** - Paul doesn't say, Believe in thine head. He isn't talking about intellectual knowledge. Many people have intellectual knowledge of Jesus. Even the devils believe in Jesus but that doesn't mean the devils are saved, James 2:19. Paul isn't talking about family lore and genealogy,

like being biologically descended from Abraham or remembering that your grandma was a Methodist.

He is talking specifically about heart knowledge of your sinful condition and your need of the Lord Jesus Christ as your Savior from sin, hell and the wrath of God, i.e., knowledge that propels you to take action for the sake of truth. In other words, you must actually, personally have the faith of Abraham and believe on Messiah Jesus. The reason Israelites weren't saved is: they didn't have the faith of Abraham and they didn't believe on Messiah Jesus. Those two things go together.

The faith of Abraham was all about Messiah coming from Abraham's line, to bless and save the world. No Israelite anywhere could get saved until he believed on Messiah Jesus, by faith. First century Israelites claimed Abraham as their father but they didn't claim Abraham's faith and they didn't have Abraham's faith.

There's a lot of that still going around in the twenty first century. People claim to be Christian but they don't believe in Christ as their Savior, they don't believe what Jesus believed and they don't believe the Bible. They claim to be spiritual but it's all talk without any heart belief. People like that are "all hat and no cattle." Romans 10:8-13 isn't that complicated.

Either you believe on Christ as your Savior from sin, hell and the wrath of God or you don't believe. Either you're saved and on your way to heaven or you're lost and on your way to a devil's hell. Now isn't the time to play at being a Christian. Now isn't the time to put on a pious religious act because you don't have the guts to do the right thing and publicly believe on Christ. It's time to man up or shut up. Getting saved isn't an ethnic thing or a group thing or a national thing; it's an individual, personal thing and it's the right thing to do.

Are you saved right now? \_\_\_\_\_ Would you like to surrender your heart to Christ and get saved right now? \_\_\_\_\_

**that God hath raised him from the dead,** - If they wanted to get saved in the first century, God required every unsaved, Christ rejecting Israelite and Gentile, to believe in the bodily resurrection of Christ. That isn't something the apostle Paul made up on his own. Paul wasn't straying from what Christ taught and inventing a new religion called Christianity. Jesus made this abundantly clear in Matthew 12:36-40. The sign of the prophet Jonah was a death and a resurrection, after three days in the belly of the whale, in the heart of the earth, with Jonah's soul in hell, Jonah 2:2, Psalm 16:10, and Christ's soul in hell, Acts 2:31.

According to Jesus, the resurrection of Christ - His own resurrection - was the only sign the Jews would get. Jesus didn't offer them multiple signs. The Jews got a one shot deal - take it or leave it. Believe in My resurrection or you will not be saved and you will not go to heaven. The physical, bodily resurrection of Christ, Luke 24:39, is real and you must believe it to be saved. Saying, I believe in a spiritual resurrection but not a bodily resurrection won't get you saved.

The requirement for Gentiles was exactly the same. Over the intervening two thousand years, God's requirement has not changed one iota. If you do not believe in the bodily resurrection of Christ, from the dead, you cannot get saved and you cannot go to heaven. The faith of Abraham is not a dead faith; it is a living faith in a living Savior. Christ died but He didn't stay dead. He resurrected physically, bodily. The resurrection of Christ wasn't just a spiritual resurrection. According to Jesus Himself, His resurrection was a physical, bodily resurrection.

*“Behold my hands and my feet, that it is I myself: handle me, and see; for a spirit hath not flesh and bones, as ye see me have.” Luke 24:39.*

1. According to Jesus, was His resurrection body physical or spiritual? \_\_\_\_\_
2. Since Jesus told His disciples that His resurrection body was physical, should we receive or reject the modern false teaching that Jesus' resurrection body was merely spiritual? **a.** Receive the false teaching. **b.** Reject the false teaching.
3. Why is the physical bodily resurrection of Christ important? **a.** Because our resurrection will be like His glorious resurrection. **b.** Because Jesus wanted His disciples to believe in His physical, bodily resurrection. **c.** Because Jesus never taught His disciples that His resurrection was only spiritual. **d.** Because Jesus taught the Jews, Matthew 12:36-40, that His resurrection from the dead would be a physical, bodily resurrection. **e.** All of the above.

Biblical Christianity works because we have a living Savior who physically resurrected from the dead. This requirement of Jesus, Matthew 12:36-40, to have enough faith to believe in a risen, living Savior, was a stumblingblock to Israel. Jesus knew that but He didn't change it or soften the requirement. It takes faith to believe in a risen Savior yet anyone who hears and believes the gospel is capable of having faith.

Israelites had Abraham as their father through biological descent but they didn't have the faith of Abraham. They could have had the faith of Abraham but they had proud hearts and they rejected Abraham's faith and Abraham's Messiah and Abraham's Savior. Some people choose their proud heart instead of Messiah Jesus. That proud choice, to deny God's only Messiah, has eternally negative

consequences. People who are wise humble down and believe on the Lord Jesus Christ for salvation. Are you wise? \_\_\_\_\_

First century Israel rejected the faith of Abraham in favor of trying to keep the law of Moses. Instead of receiving Messiah Jesus, they rejected Him and refused to believe in His physical, bodily resurrection from the dead. The sin that sends people to hell is the wicked, rebellious sin of rejecting the only Savior God ever sent to save the lost. Please don't make the mistake of rejecting the physical, bodily resurrection of Christ.

**thou shalt be saved.** - No ifs, ands or buts. Thou shalt be saved. Have you noticed, there is no water baptism in these doctrinal verses about salvation. In the doctrinal part of Romans, Paul is explaining how to be saved and he leaves out water baptism. Isn't that interesting?

The Church of Christ teaches that you contact the blood of Christ in the waters of the baptismal pool and that is what saves you. Other churches link salvation to the waters of the baptismal font, sprinkled on someone's head. The Bible never says that and never makes that link but that is what many people believe and teach, regardless of what the Bible says.

**10 - For with the heart man believeth unto righteousness; and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation.**

**For with the heart man believeth unto righteousness;** - Believing in the bodily resurrection of Christ is God's requirement for salvation. Since the resurrection of Christ, no one anywhere ever got saved before he believed that God raised Jesus from the dead. Some people teach that God has to save you by irresistible grace before you can believe. Is that what the Bible says in Romans 10:9-10? \_\_\_\_\_ Is it reasonable or biblical or Christian, to throw our mind out of gear and say, I disagree with Paul about believing? \_\_\_\_\_

For any Israelite, heart belief in Messiah Jesus meant having the faith of Abraham, John 8:56. No, Abraham didn't exactly believe on Jesus to get saved yet, Abraham did believe that Messiah would come from his biological line. Abraham, in Genesis 15:1-6, did believe what God told him about Messiah's coming and in the first century AD, any Jew who wanted to get saved had to believe what God told him, which was, Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ in your heart.

Being descended from Abraham wasn't enough. You also had to believe in your heart, like Abraham believed in his heart, Genesis 15:1-6. God taught them that

truth, through the preaching, teaching, witnessing and writing of Paul and others. When you share the gospel with lost folks, God is telling them the truth of salvation through you. You don't need to have answers to every question someone might ask. You don't need to know it all. What you need is to learn to present the gospel of Christ or the plan of salvation. Can you do that? \_\_\_\_\_

**and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation.** - Israelites in the first century, who got saved, received more spiritual blessings than Abraham had in the OT, when they confessed the risen Christ as Lord and Savior, Ephesians 1:3. If Jesus Christ is your Lord, you are no longer trusting your law-keeping to save you. If Jesus Christ is your Lord, then you can no longer serve pagan gods.

If Jesus Christ is your Lord, you have the faith of Abraham and you are saved. If you are saved, you are in Christ and, in Christ, you are elect, and, in Christ, you are a vessel of mercy. Outside of Christ, you are not saved, you are not elect and you are a vessel of wrath.

**11 - For the scripture saith, Whosoever believeth on him shall not be ashamed.**

**For the scripture saith,** - Paul quotes Isaiah 28:16 as if it is authoritative. Isn't that remarkable, that two thousand years ago, people believed that what the Bible says is authoritative? If you don't believe it's authoritative, you've got a problem you need to pay attention to.

Understand: If you don't believe the Bible is authoritative, YOU are the one with the problem. It's important for us to note that because there are many fake Christians these days. They call themselves Christians but they don't believe that scripture is authoritative in any area of their life. We sometimes refer to them as CINOs, Christians In Name Only.

### **Don't be a CINO - a Christian In Name Only**

Paul quotes Isaiah 28:16 and repurposes it for use here in Romans 10. The situation Isaiah addressed is strikingly similar to the situation Paul addressed. Read Isaiah's scathing denunciation of the drunkards of Ephraim, beginning in Isaiah 28:1. Isaiah 28 reminds us of the scathing rebuke Jesus preached against the Pharisees in Matthew 23.

Rebellious Judah and Jerusalem were the focus, in Isaiah's day, and rebellious Israel was the focus, in Jesus' day and Paul's day. The wicked religious rulers of Judah and Jerusalem (descendants of Abraham), were ignoring the cornerstone,

Isaiah 28:16, and boasting that they had made a covenant with death and an agreement with hell. Apparently their Abrahamic covenant with God meant nothing to them. Isaiah rebukes their wicked unbelief.

In Paul's day, Israel, by her insistence on works righteousness instead of faith in Messiah Jesus, has again made a covenant with death and an agreement with hell, Isaiah 28:15. Paul slams first century Israel for being as rebellious and foolish as Israel in Isaiah's day. For Israel in Paul's day, the consequences of unbelief are worse than in Isaiah's day. Within about ten years of the time Paul wrote Romans, God tosses Israel onto the ash heap of history for two thousand years.

Think about this soul-searing truth. Every first century Israelite who rejected Paul's preaching, who rejected Messiah and didn't get saved, has been dead and in hell for almost two thousand years. Do you see why Paul is so bold as he applies Isaiah 28:16 to first century Israel?

Paul's intent in quoting Isaiah 28:16 was crystal clear to first century Israelites. They understood how harshly he was condemning them for their rebellious unbelief. Every first century Israelite who believed Paul's gospel and got saved has been in heaven for almost two thousand years now. There are real life consequences to the decisions we make.

**Whosoever believeth on him shall not be ashamed.** - Isaiah 28:16 says, shall not make haste. How can Isaiah say, *shall not make haste*, and Paul then quotes it as, *shall not be ashamed*? And then Peter quotes it as, *shall not be confounded*.

We've already discussed, in this chapter, the truth that God is the ultimate Author of the Bible. As the ultimate Author of the Bible, God has the right to change or repurpose any OT quotation in the NT, to achieve His purposes. If that causes unbelievers and doubters to throw a hissy fit, it's time to get over yourself. God is always right and if you disagree with Him, you're always wrong.

Paul quotes Isaiah 28:16. Think about Isaiah and how Isaiah's message reached his original audience. The prophet gave spoken declarations of God's words, in the form of prophetic utterances in sermons. He didn't just sit down and dictate long chapters and then have someone print and distribute the chapters, to be read by hundreds of thousands of people.

The original words of Isaiah began as prophetic utterances, Isaiah speaking the words of God Himself, Isaiah 7:7 - *thus saith the Lord* - (this phrase is used 35 times by Isaiah), as he spoke words intended to be heard in public gatherings,

Isaiah 1:2, 10. For that reason, there is a rhythm, a cadence, a pleasing flow to Isaiah's writing, especially when we read it aloud. It changes tempo, sometimes slowing for emphasis and sometimes swelling to a crescendo of outrage, which grips the hearts of the hearers. Isaiah is outraged at the sins of Israel and Judah.

When we read Isaiah 28 out loud, we get a sense of the flow of the narrative as Isaiah builds to v. 16. He that believeth shall not make haste. Make haste? Yes, Isaiah 28:2 warns that God's judgment is *as a tempest of hail and a destroying storm, as a flood of mighty waters overflowing*. In verse 15, *the overflowing scourge shall pass through*. In verse 17, *the hail shall sweep away the refuge of lies, and the waters shall overflow the hiding places*. In verse 18, *when the overflowing scourge shall pass through, then ye shall be trodden down by it*.

Those are Isaiah's four descriptions of judgment upon wicked, rebellious Israel and Judah and Jerusalem. But, Isaiah 28:16 says: *he that believeth shall not make haste*. Why not? Because God's judgment, God's wrath, was not aimed at believers then and is not aimed at us now, Romans 5:9, 1 Thessalonians 5:9. For believers, our foundation is *a tried stone, a precious corner stone*, Ephesians 2:20, *a sure foundation*, 1 Corinthians 3:11. We are founded on the Rock, Matthew 16:18, 1 Corinthians 10:4, and our house is built upon a rock, Matthew 7:24-27.

Therefore, when the swiftly moving storm, the lashing rain, the driving hail, the howling deluge comes, we need not make haste because: **a.** the judgment is not aimed at us, and **b.** our house is not built upon the sand; we are founded upon the Rock (which is Christ). Israel, on the other hand, rejected Christ, the Rock upon which the faith of Abraham is founded.

Isaiah paints a word picture of believers escaping Jehovah's judgment upon unbelievers, when he says in Isaiah 28:16, *shall not make haste*, because the coming Messiah is God's precious corner stone. Paul conveys the same idea when he quotes Isaiah 28:16 and writes: *shall not be ashamed*, because Jesus is his corner stone, just like in Isaiah 28:16, Romans 9:33, 10:11, and Peter expresses the same thought when he quotes Isaiah 28:16 and writes in 1 Peter 2:6: *shall not be confounded*, because Jesus is his corner stone, just like in Isaiah 28:16.

- 1. The Gospel has been offered to all - Romans 10:12-13.**
2. The Gospel is within the reach of all - Romans 10:8-13.
3. The Gospel has not been obeyed by all - Romans 10:3, 16.

**12 - For there is no difference between the Jew and the Greek: for the same Lord over all is rich unto all that call upon him.**

**For there is no difference between the Jew and the Greek:** - This is a recurring theme in Paul's ministry and writings, Acts 13:46, 18:6, 28:28. He has already mentioned it in Romans 3:28-30. Then, to drive home his point, Paul tells us in Romans 4:9-10, that Abraham was justified by faith while he was still an uncircumcised Gentile. Every Israelite in the first century AD should have been aware of this truth.

That there is *no difference between the Jew and the Greek*, concerning salvation, has been part of the law of Moses for 1500 years, at the time Paul wrote Romans. Why does Paul keep pointing out this truth? Because the Jews didn't believe it, didn't like it and refused to accept it. The sad truth is, many Jews in the first century AD would rather go to hell than be part of the body of Christ, if the body of Christ contained saved Gentiles.

Think of it in light of the parable of the laborers in Matthew 20:1-16. To be a proselyte to Judaism and worship the God of Abraham, if you were a man, you had to be physically circumcised, you had to learn and keep the law of Moses, with all its sacrifices and rules and 613 commandments. Once you did all of that, you were ready for the mikvah bath, a baptism by immersion which signified that you were now a convert to Judaism. Becoming a Jewish proselyte took a lot of time and effort.

After the resurrection of Christ, everything changed. On the grace side of Calvary, if you wanted to worship the God of Abraham, you didn't need to get circumcised, you didn't need to convert to Judaism, you didn't have to keep the law of Moses. All you had to do was believe on the Lord Jesus Christ. That may have caused many Jews anger and bitterness, at Christians and at God.

The Jews may have seen themselves as the laborers who had born the burden and heat of the day and they saw Gentile Christians as the laborers who only worked the last hour of the day but still got paid the same as the men who worked all day long.

Can you think of a chapter or story, in the NT, which illustrates what an enormous problem this was, the idea that there was: no difference between the Jew and the Greek? \_\_\_\_\_

**for the same Lord over all is rich unto all that call upon him.** - If TULIP teaching is true, this is an outrageous lie. According to TULIP, God is NOT rich

unto all that call upon Him - He is only rich unto “the elect.” Of course, TULIP is really the outrageous lie and what Paul says here is absolutely true - *the same Lord over all is rich unto all that call upon him.*

There is no Unconditional election to salvation in the Bible. Anyone who disagrees can disprove my assertion by citing Bible verses which mention unconditional election to salvation. How many verses did you find? \_\_\_\_\_

There is no Limited atonement or particular redemption in the Bible. Anyone who disagrees can disprove my statement by citing verses which say that Christ’s atonement was only for the elect. \_\_\_\_\_

There is no Irresistible grace in the Bible, by which God saves people who have not been convicted of their sins, who have not repented of their sins, who have not believed on Christ, who have not called upon the name of the Lord. Anyone who disagrees can disprove my statement by citing verses which say that God saves people who do not believe on Jesus. \_\_\_\_\_

Obviously, there are no verses in the Bible which say what TULIP teaches. This isn’t rocket science. Either Romans 10:9-13 means what it says or it doesn’t. If God means what He says, then TULIP is unbiblical, unChristian false teaching.

### **13 - For whosoever shall call upon the name of the Lord shall be saved.**

**For whosoever** - If TULIP were true, Paul should have written: For whosoever of the elect shall call upon the name of the Lord shall be saved. Paul didn’t write Roman 10:13 to teach TULIP. Whosoever means whosoever. Whosoever means anyone, not just the elect. Is that clear to everyone? \_\_\_\_\_

**shall call upon the name of the Lord** - Call upon the name of the Lord means to receive Jesus as Messiah, to believe on Jesus as Messiah. That was precisely the sticking point for Israel. They wanted God’s blessings upon them while they rejected Messiah Jesus. Paul appeals to first century Israelites and everyone else who will ever read Romans. *Call upon the name of the Lord* means to believe on the Lord Jesus Christ as your Savior, from sin, hell and the wrath of God.

The language in which you call upon the Lord is not specified. Whatever language you speak, *call upon the name of the Lord* and He will save you. It doesn’t matter if some Christians think you are not elect. Their opinion is worthless to God and to Bible believing Christians. Don’t worry about their false teaching. Believe the glorious gospel of Christ. Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ and then, live for Jesus as an eternally saved child of God.

**shall be saved.** - Wait a minute Paul! How can you be so dogmatic? How can you be so sure that *whosoever shall call upon the name of the Lord shall be saved*? Augustinian teaching for sixteen hundred years has been that only the elect can be saved. TULIP teaching for four hundred years has been that only the elect can be saved. Ah yes, but Bible teaching since AD 58, for almost two thousand years, has been that whosoever shall call upon the name of the Lord shall be saved.

**The Bible never limits salvation to an elect few.**

**Salvation is for whosoever shall call upon the name of the Lord.**

### **Behold The Throne Of Grace**

Behold the throne of grace!  
The promise calls us near;  
There Jesus shows a smiling face  
And waits to answer prayer.

That rich atoning blood,  
Which sprinkled round I see;  
Provides for those who come to God,  
An all prevailing plea.

My soul ask what thou wilt,  
Thou canst not be too bold;  
Since His own blood for thee He spilt,  
What else can He withhold?

Beyond thy utmost wants  
His love and power can bless;  
To praying souls He always grants,  
More than they can express.

Since 'tis the Lord's command,  
My mouth I open wide;  
Lord open Thou Thy bounteous hand,  
That I may be supplied.

Thine image, Lord, bestow,  
Thy presence and Thy love;  
I ask to serve Thee here below,  
And reign with Thee above.

Teach me to live by faith,  
Conform my will to Thine;  
Let me victorious be in death,  
And then in glory shine.

If Thou these blessings give,  
And wilt my portion be;  
Cheerful the world's poor toys I leave,  
To them who know not Thee.  
-John Newton, 1779, 1725-1807

**14 - How then shall they call on him in whom they have not believed? and how shall they believe in him of whom they have not heard? and how shall they hear without a preacher?**

Paul has a logical, orderly, rational mind. He employs logic when he teaches God's truth in the Bible. Therefore, there is a logical, biblical order to getting saved and that's what Paul is talking about. See if you agree.

1. The gospel must be preached.
2. The lost must hear the gospel.
3. The lost must understand the gospel.
4. The lost must believe the gospel.
5. The lost must confess with their mouth the Lord Jesus.
6. The lost must believe in their heart that God raised Him from the dead.
7. The lost must call upon the name of the Lord to be saved.

Now here is the question at issue. Was the gospel preached to Israel? \_\_\_\_\_  
Did Israel hear the gospel? \_\_\_\_\_ Did Israel understand the gospel? \_\_\_\_\_  
Did Israel believe the gospel? \_\_\_\_\_ Did Israel confess with their mouth the  
Lord Jesus? \_\_\_\_\_ Did Israel believe in their heart that God raised Jesus  
from the dead? \_\_\_\_\_ Did Israel call upon the name of the Lord? \_\_\_\_\_

**How then shall they call on him in whom they have not believed?** - Paul concluded Romans chapter 9 with the question: *What shall we say then, in Romans 9:30.* Here, Paul is doing the same thing - reaching his conclusion by

asking questions, the answers to which demonstrate that Israel has enough information and knowledge to believe on Messiah Jesus and get saved. Any Israelite who read and believed Isaiah should have known that God was going to include Gentiles in His plan of salvation, Isaiah 45:22.

Paul approaches his argument with logic that intends to reach both the head and the heart. Israel didn't become rebellious just last week. Israel's murderous hatred for God's prophets in the OT, Matthew 23:30-37, and for Jesus during his earthly ministry, isn't a recent development. It was centuries in the making. Israel was warned repeatedly by God, to get right. When she didn't, Assyria, in 722 BC, and Babylon, in 586 BC, were God's hammers of judgment.

***How then shall they call on him in whom they have not believed?*** - Indeed, how shall rebellious first century Israel call upon Messiah when they have steadfastly refused to believe on Him, when they cried out for Him to be crucified? Believing the truth is an act of the will. Believing the gospel is an act of the will. When believing gospel truth is an act of the will based on compelling evidence, like the miracles and words and physical, bodily resurrection of Christ, that kind of evidence should be believed. It is foolish not to believe that kind of evidence.

One wonders if TULIP teachers have ever read Romans 10:14, in light of their teaching that you get regenerated (saved) before you believe on Christ, without believing on Christ. That is what irresistible grace means on a practical level.

How would you answer Paul's question? *How shall they call on him in whom they have not believed?* \_\_\_\_\_

Remember, TULIP teaches that God saves people before they believe on Him, without them believing on Him, before they call on Him, without them calling on Him. For TULIP teachers, the answer to Paul's question has to be: By irresistible grace. Well, that's a wonderful answer, except for the unquestionable truth that irresistible grace is never, ever mentioned in the Bible.

Irresistible grace is a false presupposition, based on Gnostic false teaching, which Augustine borrowed and used as if it was found in the Bible. Of course, Bible believing Christians know that irresistible grace is never found in the Bible.

The correct answer to Paul's question is: They cannot call upon him until they hear about Him. They hear about Him through the words we use to preach, teach and witness. The lost need to hear the glorious gospel of Christ. The glorious gospel of Christ contains words. Paul was not, in any way, telling Roman Christians to keep their mouths shut and just live it. When the lost hear

the words of the gospel, there is power in those words and in the gospel, to enable them to believe and call upon the name of the Lord, Romans 1:16. The bold print in the next caption is what Romans 10:14 does not say about preaching the gospel.

**“Preach the Gospel at all times.  
When necessary, use words.”**

That saying is attributed to St. Francis of Assisi, although there is no historical evidence that he ever said it. It is viewed by unsaved folks and some professing Christians as deep and profound spiritual truth, that it’s more important to “live it” than it is to engage in personal evangelism, using words.

For people who know and believe the Bible, that statement is viewed as unbiblical, feel-good, faux spiritual, virtue signaling. The apostle Paul would have laughed at the absurdity of that statement. Jesus would have laughed at that statement, based on His command to His apostles in Matthew 28:18-20.

The gospel is a defined set of facts about the death of Christ for our sins, his burial and his triumphant bodily resurrection from the dead so that we can be saved, and all of that is, according to the scriptures. Preaching the gospel requires words.

Wise Christians don’t take evangelism advice from dead Catholic saints. Notice the difference between St. Francis or whoever said that, and the apostle Paul. The gospel is preached, using words. The Bible never tells Christians to live the gospel. The glorious gospel of Christ is to be spoken, preached, printed, passed out, proclaimed and taught, using words.

*“Preach the word; be instant in season, out of season; reprove, rebuke, exhort with all longsuffering and doctrine.” 2 Timothy 2:4.*

*“For though I preach the gospel, I have nothing to glory of: for necessity is laid upon me; yea, woe is unto me, if I preach not the gospel!” 1 Corinthians 9:16.*

**and how shall they believe in him of whom they have not heard?** - Do you see the problem Paul presents? TULIP teachers say that God saves you before you believe on Him, without you believing on Him. If TULIP teaching is true, then Paul is presenting a problem which isn’t a problem. Do you see that? \_\_\_\_\_

TULIP teachers say that, only after God saves you, can you then you believe on Him. So what’s wrong with that TULIP teaching? Many things. **1.** It isn’t biblical.

It is an outrageous lie. The Bible never says that or anything like that. **2.** That ancient false belief came from people who ignored what the Bible says, in context, men like Manes and his Gnostic followers. **3.** No TULIP follower and no TULIP teacher ever got saved according to the TULIP plan of salvation, which is: Don't believe because you can't believe. Don't call upon the Lord for salvation because you can't call upon the Lord for salvation. Don't seek the Lord because you can't seek the Lord. Just wait and God will save you by irresistible grace, if you're one of the elect.

Do you see the problem yet? Paul was not a TULIP teacher. Paul taught that people can call upon the Lord, Romans 10:13, and when they do, God saves them. Paul believed in the Great Commission, Matthew 28:18-20. Paul believed in the amazing power of the gospel. Paul's gospel is the power of God unto salvation to every one that believeth, Romans 1:16. For Paul and the Bible, belief always comes before salvation.

What is the answer to Paul's question in this verse? The answer is, they cannot believe in him of whom they have not heard. Getting saved isn't something God does automatically, apart from belief and apart from faith. Someone needs to obey Jesus and take the gospel to the lost, Matthew 28:18-20, John 4:35-36. That's what Paul is getting at here.

**and how shall they hear without a preacher?** - During the earthly ministry of Jesus, the laborers were few, Luke 10:2. The gospel is the cure for cancer and the winning lottery number, all wrapped up in one gloriously free package that anyone can get. You wouldn't think there would be a shortage of people wanting to tell others about Jesus but there is. Twenty five years after the resurrection of Christ, there was already a shortage of preachers willing to take the gospel to the lost.

**15 - And how shall they preach, except they be sent? as it is written, How beautiful are the feet of them that preach the gospel of peace, and bring glad tidings of good things!**

**And how shall they preach, except they be sent?** - Gospel preachers must be sent and Jesus is the sender, Matthew 10:5, Luke 10:1, John 20:21. Gospel preachers are first of all, sent by God and then they are sent by a local church, Acts 13:2.

**as it is written, How beautiful are the feet of them** - Paul quotes Isaiah 52:7, about the beautiful feet of gospel preachers.

**that preach the gospel of peace,** - When Isaiah said this in Isaiah 52:7, on the law side of Calvary, it meant something different than when Paul quotes it on the grace side of Calvary. Isaiah wrote Isaiah 52:7 just nine verses before his most famous chapter, Isaiah 53. The gospel of peace in Isaiah's day was that Messiah was coming, but had not yet come, to take our sins upon Him, willingly dying to redeem us.

When Paul quotes this in Romans 10:15, it has a different meaning and the good news is different. In Romans 10:15, Messiah has already come and fulfilled Isaiah 53 and resurrected and reconciled the whole world to God.

*"To wit, that God was in Christ, reconciling the world unto himself, not imputing their trespasses unto them; and hath committed unto us the word of reconciliation." 2 Corinthians 5:19.*

The word of reconciliation is the glorious gospel of Christ, what Paul refers to as, *my gospel*, Romans 2:16, 16:25, 2 Timothy 2:8, or, the gospel of peace, in Romans 10:15. On the grace side of Calvary, the *gospel of peace* is found in Romans 5:1. Our gospel is more valuable than any winning lotto number.

*"Therefore being justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ:" Romans 5:1.*

*"And, having made peace through the blood of his cross, by him to reconcile all things unto himself; by him, I say, whether they be things in earth, or things in heaven." Colossians 1:20.*

In Isaiah's day, the gospel of peace was - Messiah is coming!  
In Paul's day, the gospel of peace was - Messiah has come!

**and bring glad tidings of good things!** - For Isaiah, *glad tidings of good things* meant that Jehovah God loved His people, cared for His people, always kept His promises to His people, and, was coming to redeem His people.

For Paul, *glad tidings of good things* meant that Jehovah God still loved His people Israel, still cared for His people Israel, always kept His promises to His people Israel, even His promises of judgment and, the Messiah Israel was rejecting had already redeemed His people and reconciled them to God. The door of salvation was wide open to all Israelites as Paul wrote Romans, and that was indeed, *glad tidings of good things*.

Preaching the glorious gospel of Christ is sometimes viewed as mean spirited and judgmental because the gospel is not all positive. Christ died for our sins.

That is negative because it says that our personal sins were so wicked, so reprehensible that Christ had to die to pay for them. The gospel tells us, *Christ died for the ungodly*, Romans 4:5. That means we were ungodly. The gospel of Christ gives every one, every reason to hope for a brilliant future, if they get in Christ. What is hopeful about the gospel of Christ? \_\_\_\_\_

So what exactly, are the glad tidings of good things? **1.** God loved us, even when we were sinners. **2.** God did not abandon us in our sins and walk away. **3.** God made provision to redeem us from our sins and reconcile us to Himself, and then did it. **4.** Christ offered Himself as the propitiation for our sins, God punishing God as Christ died, in our place, as us, for us, with all of our sins laid on Him, all of our sins imputed to Him.

That is all well and good but that isn't enough to save anyone. We are not saved by the death of Christ. Did you know that Bible truth? \_\_\_\_\_ The death of Christ reconciled us to God and made us savable but didn't save us. We are saved *by His life*, Romans 5:10.

Something more must happen if we are to be saved. **5.** The payment Jesus made for our sins must be accepted by God. And God's acceptance of that payment must be shown clearly and unquestionably, so that all will know, the sin debt has been paid and the payment has been accepted, so that, salvation is available to all who believe in Jesus.

**6.** That happened when the veil of the Temple was rent in twain, from top to bottom, Matthew 27:51, signifying that the OT sacrificial system was over and done away with, because the ultimate sacrifice of Christ was accepted by our holy God. **7.** That happened when God raised Jesus from the dead, Romans 8:11. **8.** The physical, bodily resurrection of Christ is God's message to the world, that God's wrath is propitiated and the sin debt is paid and the world is reconciled to God. Now, to get saved, all anyone has to do is believe on Christ as Savior. Those eight items are what Paul means by, *glad tidings of good things*.

1. The Gospel has been offered to all - Romans 10:12-13.

2. The Gospel is within the reach of all - Romans 10:8-13.

**3. The Gospel has not been obeyed by all - Romans 10:3, 16.**

**16 - But they have not all obeyed the gospel. For Esaias saith, Lord, who hath believed our report?**

**But they have not all obeyed the gospel.** - Paul wrote Romans about twenty five years after the resurrection of Christ. For 3.5 years, Jesus the Jewish Messiah had walked the dusty roads of Israel, preaching the gospel, teaching truth, healing the sick and raising the dead. Many times during those years, Jesus confronted the Jewish leaders, in the temple and other places. These were public confrontations, witnesses by thousands of people.

The twelve apostles accompanied Jesus in that wonderful ministry. Another seventy disciples, Luke 10:1, were also sent by our Lord, teaching and preaching throughout first century Israel. The point is, the gospel was preached far and wide in Israel. God's elect nation had heard the truth about Jesus.

They did have opportunity to hear and evaluate the gospel and God's elect nation had rejected the gospel, and they rejected Messiah Jesus. That is the story behind Paul's words: *But they have not all obeyed the gospel.* What keeps people who hear the gospel from getting saved? Jesus, in Matthew 13:18-23, sheds light on that problem and tells us why *they have not all obeyed the gospel.*

*"Who hath believed our report? and to whom is the arm of the LORD revealed?"* Isaiah 53:1. If any people on earth should have obeyed the gospel, it was Israel. The gospel was foreshadowed in the Jewish scriptures. The Messiah was foreshadowed in the Jewish scriptures. The death and resurrection of Messiah, for sinners, was foretold in Isaiah 53. The Messiah was a direct Jewish descendant of father Abraham. The scriptures were given to Israelite Jews. The Messiah Himself was a full-blooded Jew. The gospel was first carried, by saved Jews, to the Jews of Israel, Acts 1:8, Romans 1:16.

**they have not all obeyed the gospel** - What kept first century Israelites from obeying the gospel? **a.** They didn't have the love of God in them, John 5:42, **b.** they wanted honour from men instead of honour from God, John 5:44, **c.** they didn't believe what Moses wrote, John 5:45-47, **d.** they didn't keep the law of Moses, John 7:19, **e.** they didn't have faith, Matthew 23:23, Romans 9:32, **f.** they viewed Jesus as a stumblingstone to them, not as their Messiah, Romans 9:32.

What does it mean, to obey the gospel? It doesn't mean ignoring the gospel. It doesn't mean, Yes, but I still think my Jewish religion is perfectly fine. Obeying the gospel means: believing on Jesus as Messiah and Savior, by grace alone, through faith alone, in Christ alone.

**For Esaias saith, Lord, who hath believed our report?** - Seven hundred years before the coming of Christ, ancient Israel was in unbelief. They didn't believe Isaiah's report or Isaiah's prophesy. Roll forward seven hundred years to the mid-first century AD and they still don't believe Isaiah's report or Paul's report.

What in the world is wrong with these people? Why do the chosen, elect people of God refuse to believe in the God who chose and elected them? The wicked unbelief of first century Israel was part of a long history of apostasy and unbelief. When they came out of Egypt, Israel continued to worship idols during their forty years wandering in the wilderness, Acts 7:40-42, Amos 5:25-27.

Before Israel entered the promised land, Moses prophesied that they would forsake God and be driven from the promised land, Deuteronomy 29:24-29, and that is exactly what happened.

Jesus reminded first century Israel that their fathers had killed the prophets God sent unto them, Matthew 23:37, Acts 7:52.

First century Israel, after witnessing the incredible life and ministry and power of their Messiah, cried out for Him to be crucified, Matthew 27:22-25, Mark 15:8-14, Luke 23:13-23, John 19:6, 15.

Now Paul, the greatest Christian who ever lived, exerts major effort, enduring harsh persecution, pleading with Israel to receive her Messiah and get saved.

**Lord, who hath believed our report?** - How many faithful witnesses for Jesus have uttered those words, after street preaching and tract passing and home visitation, witnessing to the lost? Anyone who has done street ministry knows the emotion behind the question. We want to see the lost get saved and we don't enjoy the dry spells, when God expects us to faithfully preach the word, even when we don't see any visible results. Keep living for Jesus and keep witnessing. God blesses faithfulness and He will give the harvest eventually.

Isaiah wanted to see Israel, Judah and Jerusalem get saved and get right with God. In the OT, Isaiah is known as the prophet of the cross because of Isaiah 53. In the NT, Paul is the apostle of the cross, because his gospel is centered on the cross and the resurrection of Christ.

John 5:45-47 and 7:19 are the commentary of Jesus on Israel's unbelief. Jesus Himself, God incarnate, marvelled at the unbelief of the Jews, Mark 6:6. If Jesus unconditionally elected a few to get saved and elected to leave everyone else unelected and headed for hell, would He then marvel at the unbelief of those He didn't unconditionally elect? \_\_\_\_\_ Only a fool would answer Yes.

The Jewish Messiah knew how rebellious and wicked His elect nation was, Isaiah 45:4, 2 Peter 2:1-2. Isaiah, Jesus and Paul, for all their prayers and all their preaching, were not able to break through the stony hearts of most Israelites, Matthew 7:14. What is the answer to the dilemma of Israel rejecting her Messiah? There is only one biblical answer, the same answer for everyone who rejects Messiah Jesus. Get into the Bible. Read the scriptures. Search the scriptures; believe and obey what you read. Believe the gospel and get saved.

### **17 - So then faith cometh by hearing, and hearing by the word of God.**

**So then faith cometh by hearing,** - Paul doesn't say: the answer is unconditional election and irresistible grace. Those false teachings never have been and never will be the answer. The answer is: preaching the gospel.

Preaching the glorious gospel of Christ is the only answer, the only thing that works because the gospel is the power of God unto salvation to every one that believeth. Nothing else works. Wisdom of words doesn't work. Fancy church buildings don't work. "Christian" rock concerts don't work. Smoke and laser light shows don't work. Fake healing services don't work. Fleshly dance and musical performances don't work. Only the glorious gospel of Christ works. That's why we preach the gospel. That's why we teach the Bible. That's why we quote scripture when we witness. In the Bible, faith comes by hearing the word of God.

**and hearing by the word of God.** - First century Israel witnessed Messiah Jesus doing incredible miracles. He healed the sick, cast out devils, made blind eyes see, broke up funerals by raising people from the dead and fed multiplied thousands of hungry people. Yet those incredible miracles done by Jesus year after year, didn't convince most Israelites to get saved.

Faith doesn't come from seeing miraculous acts of God. Have you heard people say: If I could see Jesus in person, if I could watch Him do a miracle, then I would believe. No, probably you wouldn't believe. Why? Because faith doesn't come from miracles.

Faith comes from hearing the word of God. And the truth is, many people don't want to listen to the word of God. Do you remember what Jesus taught in Luke 16:27-31? Hear the summation of this truth. These are the words of Jesus. This is what we take away from the teaching of our blessed Savior.

*"And he said unto him, If they hear not Moses and the prophets, neither will they be persuaded, though one rose from the dead." Luke 16:31.*

Jesus taught what Paul taught about faith. The miracle of someone rising from the dead will not convince anyone who rejects the truthfulness of the Bible. If the genuine miracles of Jesus did not cause faith in the people who personally witnessed them, what will cause faith? “*So then faith cometh by hearing, and hearing by the word of God.*” There is no excuse for pastors not to teach the Bible verse by verse. Shame on every pastor who gets up Sunday after Sunday, year after year, and tells jokes and never teaches the Bible verse by verse.

Hearing as Paul uses it here, refers to hearing the gospel so that you can believe the gospel. Paul doesn't mean hearing cute little illustrations or emotional, tear jerking stories. Paul doesn't mean hearing contemporary Christian songs which never mention Jesus or sin or salvation.

Paul doesn't mean waving colorful flags and having a dance recital as part of the church service. Paul doesn't mean flowery oratory which ignores the glorious gospel of Christ. *Faith cometh by hearing and hearing by the word of God.* None of the things we listed causes faith that leads to salvation. Hearing the word of God precipitates faith.

**the word of God** - The word of God is the old, black-backed 66, meaning, for us, the King James Bible. The Apocrypha is not the word of God. The religious books of other religions are not the scriptures of truth. The prophetic utterances and words of knowledge of fake apostles and fake prophets are not the word of God that Paul refers to here. The Bible is the focus of Paul's statement here. Use the Bible because the Bible works.

What is wrong with pastors, that they will not teach and preach the word of God verse by verse?\_\_\_\_\_

**18 - But I say, Have they not heard? Yes verily, their sound went into all the earth, and their words unto the ends of the world.**

**But I say, Have they not heard?** - Paul quoted Isaiah's 700 year old question: *Lord, who hath believed our report?* Now he answers Isaiah's question in the first century context. *But I say.* Paul is switching gears, again aiming his argument at first century Israel.

**Have they not heard?** - *They* refers to unsaved Israelites and unsaved Gentiles. Paul is getting ready to quote Psalm 19:4 and he seems to make a dramatic switch here but follow it carefully and discover where he is going. Remember what Paul has already written in Romans 1:19-20.

*“Because that which may be known of God is manifest in them; for God hath shewed it unto them. For the invisible things of him from the creation of the world are clearly seen, being understood by the things that are made, even his eternal power and Godhead; so that they are without excuse.”* Romans 1:19-20.

Paul isn't going to give us a variety of answers to the questions: Who has heard and, How have they heard? Under inspiration of God, Paul simply declares that they have heard. He cites Psalm 19 as proof that they have heard, and leaves it up to us, his readers, to tease out the meaning.

How can we tease out Paul's meaning for ourselves? Here are five ways serious Bible students can puzzle out biblical truths like this. We should be persistent and expectant that God will illuminate His written truth for us.

1. Read and reread Psalm 19, to get familiar with it.
2. Actively work on memorizing Psalm 19.
3. Pray and ask God to help you understand Psalm 19.
4. Read as many commentaries on Psalm 19 as you can find online.
5. Refuse to give up or quit - keep wrestling with Psalm 19.

**Yes verily, their sound went into all the earth,** - Paul quotes Psalm 19:4 to answer his question, Have they not heard? Ancient Israel viewed the fact that God made the heavens as proof that He is the one true God, 1 Chronicles 16:26.

Is Psalm 19:4 a sufficient answer for modern people in the twenty first century? *Their sound*, refers to the heavens and the observable, visible creation of God. The heavens reveal that there is a Creator God. The complexity of the heavens, the precision of movement of the planets and the stars, their splendor, their vast expanse, point everyone with eyes to see and ears to hear, to our Creator.

### **How the revelation of God works in the real world**

Here's how the revelation of God works. Don't miss this. God knows His creation and He wants His creation to know Him. Did you ever read the genealogies in the Bible? Think about those genealogies. God knows us! Those genealogies are proof of God's knowing. He knows our names, our ancestors, our families, our homes, our leaders. God knows our stresses and struggles, our troubles and trials. Nothing in your life has ever escaped the notice of our loving God. That's one of the lessons we can learn from genealogies in the Bible. God wants us to know that He knows us by name, including our grandparents.

God knows us, His creation, and God wants us to know Him. God intends us to know Him and He designed creation to assist that process of us knowing God.

In plainer words, God is not inscrutable and obscure. He isn't hiding and He isn't distant and unapproachable. God is knowable. In order to reveal His infinite self, to us, His finite creation, God scattered observable clues, hints, illustrations and pointers throughout His creation. God intends his human creation, mankind, to understand Him through: **1. Creation**, **2. Revelation**, **3. Explanation**, and, **4. Prophecy or Prediction**.

### **Four ways we discover and get to know God**

**1. Creation** is the natural, earthly world around us, and our solar system, our galaxy and the entire universe.

**2. Revelation** is absolute truth found in the Bible, which mankind could not discover independently of God, so, if we are to know it, God has to reveal it to us in the written word of truth, the Bible.

**3. Explanation** includes what the written word of God says and the context in which it says it. Part of the job of prophets and preachers is to explain God's will and word to God's people, Nehemiah 8:8.

*“So they read in the book in the law of God distinctly, and gave the sense, and caused them to understand the reading.”* Nehemiah 8:8.

When we want to understand the Bible, there are at least seven aspects of context which we must consider, some in the Bible and some outside the Bible.

- a. Biblical - Where is the passage it found in the Bible, OT or NT?
- b. Cultural - Is the passage addressing a cultural situation?
- c. Doctrinal - Is the passage teaching us revealed doctrine?
- d. Historical - What was happening which might affect how we understand?
- e. Linguistic - What language was used and what did the words mean?
- f. Literary - Is it historical narrative, oral poem, hymn of praise or parable?
- g. Religious - How did religion factor in to what we are reading?

**4. Prophecy or Prediction** consists of God putting His plans in writing, hundreds of years before events come to pass, as testimony to His Godly omniscience.

We assert that God built a general revelation of Himself into His creation, sufficient as an introduction which reveals God, Psalm 19:1-14. The realization that we have a Creator leads naturally to thoughts about our responsibility to our Creator, how we might interact with Him and what He might require of us.

Those thoughts about our responsibility to the God who created us, prepare our minds to respond to our God-given conscience, Romans 2:15. As we make right moral decision after right moral decision, our God-given conscience leads us inexorably to God our Creator, because that is what God designed our conscience to do. It is God's responsibility, as we respond affirmatively and obediently to our conscience, to get the truth of the gospel to us, so that we can believe on Christ and get saved. Do you see how God designed His creation to work with our conscience, to lead us to Christ? \_\_\_\_\_

**and their words unto the ends of the world.** - This isn't a hard to understand issue. God intentionally created the heavens as a signal to the human race, of the existence of the God who created us, so that we would seek Him and get saved. God placed Psalm 19 in the Bible for that purpose and Paul quotes it for that purpose. When you read Psalm 19, do you understand that as one of God's purposes in creation? \_\_\_\_\_

The end result of our ability to see God's creation and be spoken to by it, is that we seek God. God rewards honest seekers with truth which leads them to salvation. Cornelius the Roman centurion in Acts 10 and 11, illustrates how God gets truth to a man who responds to his God-given conscience.

Some people object that God's methods and purposes don't work very well, since so many people end up not getting saved. Is that objection fair to God?

Because God is God, those of us who are saved and believe the Bible give God the benefit of the doubt, that He has employed the best and wisest means His omniscience has determined will most effectively bring people to salvation. Objecting that God's methods don't work very well underestimates the wickedness of the human heart and God's creation of the human race with [freewill](#).

Designing creation with intention, as a revelation of Himself, is not all that God did so poor lost sinners can find their Savior. Acts 17:26-31 tells us:

*"And hath made of one blood all nations of men for to dwell on all the face of the earth, and hath determined the times before appointed, and the bounds of their habitation; That they should seek the Lord, if haply they might feel after him, and find him, though he be not far from every one of us:"*

*"But what saith it? The word is nigh thee, even in thy mouth, and in thy heart: that is, the word of faith, which we preach;" Romans 10:8.*

God is close enough to all of us that we can find Him and His word is nigh us. God has placed clues to the Creator throughout His creation. Even something as ordinary as the geographic location where nations live was designed by God, to help us find our Savior. When we connect those truths to the glorious gospel truth that Jesus died for the world and that God is not willing that any should perish but that all should come to repentance, we get a clearer picture of God's true heart and great love for the human race.

Beyond all of that, God gave us the Bible by inspiration and preserved it for us in the KJV 1611, so that we have access to His eternal truth. God loves us, Christ died for us and rose from the dead and our Trinitarian Godhead intends everyone in the human race to get saved. The ball is now in our court, to use our freewill to respond to God's overtures of salvation.

**19 - But I say, Did not Israel know? First Moses saith, I will provoke you to jealousy by them that are no people, and by a foolish nation I will anger you.**

**But I say, Did not Israel know?** - What didn't Israel know and why didn't Israel know? Israel didn't know the faith of Abraham. They knew they were descended from Abraham but for most Israelites, Judaism was an empty religion, more show than substance, more ceremony than real faith in God like Abraham had.

Religion without faith in the one true God, is wasted effort and worthless endeavor. God isn't fooled by religious fervor and religious pageantry. The Judaism of the Jews got in the way of them finding God. They substituted their Judaism for believing in Messiah Jesus and that was never God's intention.

Why didn't Israel know the faith of Abraham? What caused Israel to walk away from their true God and embrace false gods? If any man had the intellect and spiritual insight to figure out what Israel's problem was, it is Paul the apostle.

**First Moses saith, I will provoke you to jealousy** - This is not like First Timothy or First Corinthians. Instead, this is the first point Paul makes, as he answers the question, *Did not Israel know?*

**I will provoke you to jealousy** - Israel provoked God to jealousy by worshiping idols, Deuteronomy 32:16, 21, 1 Kings 14:22, Psalm 78:58. God's response is to save and bless Gentiles, to make Israel jealous, so Israel will want the spiritual blessings the Gentiles are getting, and get saved, so they too, can have the blessing of God. Did you get that? God doesn't give up on Israel. In spite of

Israel's rebellion against God and rejection of God, He consistently deals with Israel patiently, persistently, powerfully.

As in Deuteronomy 32:21, *Provoke you to jealousy*, is the same strategy Paul employs here in Romans 10:19, in his effort to convince Israel to believe on her Messiah. After 740 years of rebellion, God still doesn't give up on Israel. In Romans 11, God signals His intention to remove Israel from the place of blessing until the fulness of the Gentiles be come in, Romans 11:25, but Israel will eventually be restored, Romans 11:26.

**by them that are no people**, - *Them that are no people* are the Gentiles. They are no people in the sense that they are not Israel, God's chosen people, and the Gentiles are not one nation; they are not a single people group set apart by God the way He set apart the people group or nation of Israel. Israel was special in the sight of God. God loved the geographical area known as the land of Israel and He loved the people of Israel, Deuteronomy 11:7-24.

**and by a foolish nation I will anger you**. - A foolish nation again refers to the Gentiles. Remember, Paul is an educated Hebrew scholar. Describing the Gentiles as a nation is an Hebraic form of poetic expression, to reduce the equation to Israel and one other nation, even though the Gentiles are actually many nations. Jesus expressed it that way in the parable of the husbandmen, Matthew 21:43. Paul expresses himself like the educated Jew he was, to get his point across.

**I will anger you** - Did it ever occur to you that God uses our anger, our temper, to get our attention and to get us thinking, to get us under conviction, to get us to repent of our sinful ways? God will use everything that happens in your life to teach you, if you are willing to be taught. Do you expect God to teach you wisdom? \_\_\_\_\_ How do you imagine God will teach you wisdom? What will be His method of teaching? \_\_\_\_\_ Have you considered that God sometimes uses your anger to teach you? \_\_\_\_\_

**20 - But Esaias is very bold, and saith, I was found of them that sought me not; I was made manifest unto them that asked not after me.**

**But Esaias is very bold, and saith**, - Paul is obviously an avid student of Isaiah because he quotes Isaiah often in Romans. What does Paul mean when he says: *Esaias is very bold*? Isaiah boldly prophesies that the Gentiles will get saved. That is a bold prophesy, to make to cold hearted, prophet killing, rebellious Israel, 700 years before the coming of Messiah.

**I was found of them that sought me not;** - *Them that sought me not*, is the Gentiles. The conversion of the Gentiles was prophesied in Isaiah 65:1, which Paul quotes here. Paul has already pointed out this truth to his readers.

*“What shall we say then? That the Gentiles, which followed not after righteousness, have attained to righteousness, even the righteousness which is of faith.”* Romans 9:30.

Gentiles were known as pagans, not as people of faith. Yet, when Christ was preached to them, the pagan Gentiles believed on Christ by faith, just like the pagan Gentile Abraham, believed God in Genesis 15:1-6. Paul tells us that the Gentiles had faith when he writes: *I was found of them that sought me not.*

Those rude, crude Gentiles responded to the good news of salvation by faith. Cultured educated Israel's response to the good news of salvation by faith in Christ Jesus was anger and proud rage at the messenger. Jesus pointed out Israel's deadly anger in the parable of the husbandman, Matthew 21:33-45. Can you see Israel's pride in the parable Jesus told? \_\_\_\_\_

**I was made manifest unto them that asked not after me.** - The Gentiles were not seeking the gospel but were obedient to the gospel when they heard it. Being obedient and responsive to truth is an excellent character trait.

Ephesians describes the condition of unsaved people before they hear the gospel. *“That at that time ye were without Christ, being aliens from the commonwealth of Israel, and strangers from the covenants of promise, having no hope, and without God in the world: But now in Christ Jesus ye who sometimes were far off are made nigh by the blood of Christ.”* Ephesians 2:12-13.

Paul is talking about the Gentiles getting saved. To be in Christ means, you are born again, regenerated, saved, spiritually baptized into the body of Christ, 1 Corinthians 12:13. If you are in Christ, you have passed from death unto life, Genesis 3:3, Ephesians 2:1-3, John 5:24. Is Genesis 3:3 talking about physical death or spiritual death? \_\_\_\_\_ Why? \_\_\_\_\_

All of us are lost until we get saved. In plainer words, no one was in Christ before the foundation of the world, Ephesians 1:4. We were chosen in him but that is different than actually being in Christ. Do you understand that difference? In your own words, describe the difference between being chosen in him and actually being in Christ. \_\_\_\_\_

Think about it. None of us existed before the foundation of the world. So, no one existed, to be in Christ before the foundation of the world. The plan that God

made, before the foundation of the world, was that, anyone who gets in him or in Christ, is chosen. How does anyone get in Christ? \_\_\_\_\_

*“According as he hath chosen us in him before the foundation of the world, that we should be holy and without blame before him in love:”* Ephesians 1:4.

Now read Ephesians 1:4 again. 1. Does it say that anyone existed before the foundation of the world or was actually in Christ before the foundation of the world? \_\_\_\_\_ People who get in Christ are chosen and elect. People who don't get in Christ are not chosen and are not elect. 2. How do unsaved people get in Christ? **a.** They believe the gospel, **b.** they believe on Jesus, **c.** they confess with their mouth the Lord Jesus, **d.** they believe in their heart that God raised Jesus from the dead, **e.** they call upon the name of the Lord, **f.** all of the above. 3. Doing those things makes them: **a.** Baptists, **b.** Catholics, **c.** Methodists, **d.** saved.

God arranged it so that everyone who believes on Christ as Savior is born again, chosen, regenerated and saved. Being born again, John 3:3-7, is what puts you in Christ. When you're regenerated, Titus 3:5, you are in Christ. You're not saved, Romans 10:9-10, 13, until you get in Christ by believing on Christ. You haven't passed from death, unto life, John 5:24, until you get in Christ. If you're not in Christ, you are still unsaved.

Here's the bottom line. You not in Christ until you believe on the Lord Jesus Christ. No one in the history of the universe ever got born again or regenerated before he believed on the Lord Jesus Christ. In the Bible, without any exceptions, belief always comes before salvation. In the Bible, salvation never, ever comes before believing on Jesus.

If a TULIP teacher says differently, ask him to show you where it says in the Bible, that people get saved before they believe on Christ. No TULIP teacher can show you a verse which says people get saved before they believe on the Lord Jesus Christ. Why? Because the Bible never says what they teach.

Belief precipitates salvation or, makes salvation happen. By definition, unsaved people are not in Christ. If they were in Christ, they would not be unsaved people, 2 Corinthians 5:17. Ephesians 2:12-13 describes unsaved people as:

- *without Christ*
- *aliens from the commonwealth of Israel*
- *strangers from the covenants of promise*

- *having no hope*
- *without God in the world*

1. Are unsaved people in Christ or not in Christ? \_\_\_\_\_ 2. Are unsaved people *without Christ*? \_\_\_\_\_ 3. Are unsaved people in the doctrinal situation of, *having no hope*? \_\_\_\_\_ 4. Does the Bible describe unsaved people as: *without God in the world*? \_\_\_\_\_ 5. Should Christians believe that unsaved people were in Christ before the foundation of the world? \_\_\_\_\_ 6. Does Ephesians 2:12-13 make it clear that no one was in Christ before the foundation of the world? \_\_\_\_\_

**21 - But to Israel he saith, All day long I have stretched forth my hands unto a disobedient and gainsaying people.**

**But to Israel he saith,** - Notice that Paul goes to Isaiah 65 to prove that Israel had opportunity to get saved but rejected Messiah anyway. From the times of Isaiah the prophet, Israel is on a seven hundred year long rebellion against God, which is about to end very badly for them. God has been longsuffering with Israel for 700+ years and His longsuffering is about to end. When God has had enough, He will remove Israel from the place of blessing for 2000 years. That happens within a few years of AD 58, when Israel rejects the glorious gospel of Christ and Messiah Jesus.

**All day long I have stretched forth my hands** - God stretched forth His hands through the OT prophets, priests and kings. Read the Lamentations of Jeremiah to see how wickedly ancient Israel rejected God and how furiously in wrath, God responded to their rejection of Him.

God warned Israel in Leviticus 18:24-30, that if they worship idols and false gods, He will kick them out of the land of Israel and cut off their souls from their people. That warning was given in 1450 BC. Isaiah 65 is around 698 BC. That means God had given Israel 750 years to get right, to obey Him and they didn't obey. *All day long I have stretched forth my hands*, for 750 years. God is kind and merciful and longsuffering to Israel.

God intended saved Israelites to be His missionaries to the world, 1 Chronicles 16:24. OT Israel, consistent only in their rebellious disobedience, continually frustrated God's plans for them. In Romans chapter 9, Esau represents rebellious Israel. Paul's message is: If Israel rebels like Esau rebelled, Israel will be judged and rejected, like Esau was rejected. Esau despised his birthright, Genesis 25:34, just as OT Israel despised their birthright of evangelizing the

world, just as first century AD Israel despised her Messiah and His desire to save them.

**unto a disobedient and gainsaying people.** - Disobedience is a willful choice, just like obedience is a willful choice. You can decide to obey or disobey. Disobedience isn't an accident of fate, nor is it a decision made for Israel, by God or by someone else. In the Bible, disobedience is never the result of God forcing someone to sin against Him or rebel against Him and then God punishing them for doing what He forced them to do.

That false, deterministic, predestinarian view insults the character of God. It is a philosophical construct that goes at least as far back as the Gnostic leader, Manes. It is unbiblical, unChristian, ungodly false teaching. OT Israel, and later on, first century Israel, made deliberate choice after deliberate choice to disobey God, to reject God's leading, to reject Messiah Jesus and to cling to their dead Judaism.

What reason does Paul give for Israel not getting saved? Does Paul blame it on God, because God didn't unconditionally elect them to salvation? No, Paul is absolutely clear in Romans 9:32 and here, in Romans 10:21. The problem Paul points out is: 1. Israel didn't seek salvation by faith and, 2. Israel was disobedient.

As Bible believing Christians, we accept God's answer and Paul's answer and we do not try to come up with a different, philosophical answer, that contradicts the biblical answer. The Bible is our final authority on the doctrine of salvation, not a man-made philosophy that posits God as the author of sin.

## Review Questions for Romans 10

1. Romans 10:1 - Is it scriptural for Christians to pray for unsaved people to get saved? **a.** No, God takes care of that through unconditional election so we don't need to pray for the lost. **b.** Yes, it is scriptural and Paul is our biblical example of praying for the unsaved to get saved.
2. Romans 10:3 - First century AD Jews were: **a.** well-informed about God's righteousness, **b.** personally had God's righteousness, **c.** personally lacked God's righteousness, **d.** were ignorant of God's righteousness, .
3. Romans 10:3 - What does it mean to submit yourself to the righteousness of God? \_\_\_\_\_
4. Did the Jews submit themselves to the righteousness of God? **a.** Yes, they did. **b.** No, they did not. **c.** Many thousands of individuals did but not the nation.
5. Romans 10:4 - Christ is the end of the law for righteousness. Please explain what that means, in your own words. \_\_\_\_\_
6. Romans 10:4 - Is Christ the end of the law for righteousness if you don't believe on him? \_\_\_\_\_
7. Which religions, besides Christianity, agree with and believe the truth of Romans 10:4? \_\_\_\_\_
8. Romans 10:5 - Righteousness which is of the law comes from: **a.** lots of praying, **b.** giving money to the church, **c.** doing religious good works, **d.** keeping the law of Moses.
9. Romans 10:5 - Can the righteousness which is of the law save a sinful soul? **a.** Yes, it can. **b.** No, of course not, **c.** I'm not sure.
10. Romans 10:6 - In your own words, How is the righteousness which is of faith different from the righteousness which is of the law? \_\_\_\_\_
11. Romans 10:6 - When the righteousness which is of faith speaks, what does it say? \_\_\_\_\_
12. Romans 10:6 - Why does Paul write: *Say not in thine heart, Who shall ascend into heaven?* \_\_\_\_\_
13. Romans 10:6 - *Bring Christ down from above*, refers to: **a.** the Incarnation of Christ, meaning, God became flesh, **b.** that Jesus was Jewish.
14. Romans 10:7 - What does Paul mean when he writes: *Who shall descend into the deep?* **a.** He is referring to Jonah, **b.** He is referring to going to hell, **c.** He is referring to traveling through deep space.
15. Romans 10:7 - Bring up Christ again from the dead, refers to: **a.** the Annunciation, **b.** the Crucifixion, **c.** the Resurrection.
16. Romans 10:8 - What does Paul mean when he writes: *The word is nigh thee, even in thy mouth, and in thy heart?* **a.** They had heard preaching about Christ, **b.** Some of them had seen Christ in His earthly ministry, **c.** Some of them had

been witnessed to by Christians, **d.** they were discussing what they had heard, **e.** they were thinking about what they had heard, **f.** all of the above.

17. Romans 10:8 - What is *the word of faith* that Paul mentions here? **a.** It is faith in the law of Moses, **b.** It is faith in ancient Judaism, **c.** It is faith that all religions are basically good, **d.** It is faith in Messiah Jesus alone, as our Savior.

18. Romans 10:9 - What did it mean for a first century AD Jew to confess with his mouth the Lord Jesus? \_\_\_\_\_

19. Romans 10:9 - If someone confesses the Lord Jesus with his mouth but doesn't believe in his heart, is he saved? \_\_\_\_\_

20. Romans 10:9 - Does, Confess with thy mouth, mean: **a.** being a secret disciple of Jesus, or, **b.** being a public disciple of Jesus?

21. Romans 10:9 - What exactly, do you have to believe in your heart, to be saved? \_\_\_\_\_

22. Romans 10:9 - What does, *shalt be saved*, mean? **a.** I think I'm saved, **b.** I hope I'm saved, **c.** I have to wait till I die to know for sure I'm saved, **d.** I know for sure I'm saved because the Bible says, *Shalt be saved*.

23. Romans 10:9 - Does this verse limit who can be saved or, is salvation open to whoever confesses with their mouth and believes in their heart? **a.** The verse isn't clear, **b.** It could go either way, **c.** It says people who do those two things shalt be saved, so that's what I believe.

24. Romans 10:9 - What are some reasons for publicly confessing Jesus?  
\_\_\_\_\_

25. Romans 10:9 - The faith of Abraham was all about Messiah coming from Abraham's line. Could unsaved Israelites get saved if they didn't confess and believe in Messiah Jesus, according to Romans 10:9? \_\_\_\_\_

26. Romans 10:9 - When Paul writes about God raising Jesus from the dead, what is the connection to the OT that he is referencing? **a.** Enoch being caught up to God in heaven, **b.** The OT book of Hezekiah, **c.** King David and the battle for Jerusalem, **d.** The prophet Jonah and the whale.

27. Romans 10:9 - When the Jews asked Jesus for a sign, Jesus said there would no sign be given it but the sign of the prophet Jonah. What was the sign? **a.** A storm at sea, **b.** A carefree ocean cruise, **c.** Getting swallowed by a whale, dying and resurrecting **d.** A free tour of Ninevah.

28. Romans 10:9 - Which is most important, keeping the law of Moses or believing on the Lord Jesus Christ? \_\_\_\_\_

29. In Romans 10:9, do we get saved before we believe on Jesus or after we believe on Jesus? \_\_\_\_\_ we believe on Jesus.

30. Romans 10:10 - The belief that saves is heart belief. T or F

31. Romans 10:10 - What is the difference between heart belief and head belief?  
\_\_\_\_\_

32. Romans 10:10 - Why does God want saved people to confess the Lord Jesus with their mouth? \_\_\_\_\_

33. Romans 10:11 - Should people who believe on the Lord Jesus be ashamed? \_\_\_\_\_ Why are some people ashamed? \_\_\_\_\_
34. Romans 10:11 and Isaiah 28:15-16 - Why did Israel make a covenant with death and an agreement with hell? \_\_\_\_\_
35. Romans 10:12 - For purposes of getting saved, is there any difference between the Jew and the Greek? \_\_\_\_\_
36. Romans 10:12 - *For there is no difference between the Jew and the Greek.* What does that mean? \_\_\_\_\_
37. Romans 10:12 - Did Israel have difficulty accepting Gentiles as equally blessed and loved and saved by God? \_\_\_\_\_
38. Romans 10:12 says: *the same Lord over all is rich unto all that call upon Him.* Why do you believe that Bible truth? \_\_\_\_\_
39. Romans 10:12 - Will God save all who call upon Him? \_\_\_\_\_
40. Romans 10 - V. 12 says, all, and V. 13 says, whosoever. In your own words, what do those words mean? \_\_\_\_\_
41. Romans 10:13 - Is this a guarantee from God? \_\_\_\_\_
42. Romans 10:14 - Can people believe in Christ or get saved if they've never heard of Jesus? \_\_\_\_\_
43. Romans 10:15 - Who sends ministers, missionaries and witnesses out to preach the gospel of peace? \_\_\_\_\_
44. Romans 10:15 - Who has beautiful feet, according to Isaiah 52:7 and Romans 10:15? \_\_\_\_\_
45. Romans 10:15 - By the standard of Romans 10:15, do you have beautiful feet? \_\_\_\_\_
46. Romans 10:16 - But they have not all obeyed the gospel. Who is *they*? **a.** Iranians, **b.** Gentiles, **c.** Russians, **d.** Edomites, **e.** Israel.
47. Romans 10:16 - What kept Israel from obeying the gospel? **a.** Lack of money, **b.** Lack of knowledge, **c.** Lack of preachers, **d.** Lack of faith.
48. Romans 10:16 - *Who hath believed our report?* Israel didn't believe the report of the prophet Isaiah 700 years before Christ because they didn't have \_\_\_\_\_.
49. According to Romans 10:17, where does faith come from? \_\_\_\_\_
50. According to Romans 10:17, does faith come from emotional church services and emotional sermons or hearing the word of God? \_\_\_\_\_
51. According to Romans 10:17, does faith come from seeing Messiah Jesus do great miracles, like raising the dead? \_\_\_\_\_
52. Romans 10:18 - Paul quotes Psalm 19 to answer his question, *Have they not heard?* Why does Paul believe Psalm 19 is a good answer? \_\_\_\_\_
53. Romans 10:18 - By quoting Psalm 19:4, *Have they not heard?* God and Paul teach us how to understand Psalm 19. Everyone has heard enough about God, through seeing the created universe, to know there is a God to whom they are

responsible. Do you understand Psalm 19 the way God and Paul understand it?

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54. Romans 10:18 - The created universe is God's intentional effort to reveal Himself as Creator, so: **a.** people will realize they don't need to get saved, **b.** people will realize the only thing they need to do to get to heaven is join a church, **c.** people will seek the Creator of the Universe and get saved.

55. Romans 10:18 - God placed clues to Himself as Creator, throughout His creation, so people can find/seek God and get saved. T or F

56. Romans 10:19 - What is Paul's evangelistic strategy to get Israel saved? **a.** Provoke the Gentiles to start a war, **b.** Provoke the TULIP tiptoes to teach tall tales, **c.** Provoke the Jews to jealousy of the blessings the Gentiles are getting from God because they've gotten saved, Ephesians 1:3.

57. Romans 10:19 - Who are the people Paul describes as: *them that are no people*? **a.** Salesian monks, **b.** Dominican fathers, **c.** American expatriates, **d.** wealthy Israelites, **e.** Gentiles.

58. Romans 10:20 - *I was found of them that sought me not.* *Them* refers to: **a.** Mongolian tribesmen, **b.** native Americans, **c.** Jerusalem Jews, **d.** Gentiles.

59. Romans 10:20 - Paul quotes Isaiah 65:1. Did Isaiah predict the conversion of the Gentiles 700 years before it happened? \_\_\_\_\_

60. Romans 10:21 - Who are the *disobedient and gainsaying people* in this verse? **a.** Gentiles and Jews, **b.** Baptists and Methodists, **c.** Mormons and Muslims, **d.** ancient Israel and first century AD Israel.

61. Romans 10:21 - Does Paul blame Israel's unsaved condition on a lack of Unconditional Election to salvation or does he blame Israel's disobedience?

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62. What was the most interesting thing, to you, about Romans 10?

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63. What is your favorite teaching or truth, that you learned from Romans 10?

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64. What verses did you struggle to understand, as we studied Romans 10?

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65. What was the most difficult thing to get your mind around in Romans 10?

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66. What do you want to do more study on, in Romans 10, to increase your understanding? \_\_\_\_\_

Thank you for studying the Bible with us. We appreciate you!

O Thou who camest from above,  
the pure celestial fire to impart  
kindle a flame of sacred love  
upon the mean altar of my heart.

There let it for thy glory burn  
with inextinguishable blaze,  
and trembling, to its source return,  
in humble prayer and fervent praise.

Jesus, confirm my heart's desire  
to work and speak and think for thee;  
still let me guard the holy fire,  
and still stir up thy gift in me.

Ready for all thy perfect will,  
my acts of faith and love repeat,  
till death thy endless mercies seal,  
and make my sacrifice complete.  
-Charles Wesley, 1762, 1707-1788