

COMMENTARY

ROMANS

Chapter 10:

vs. 1- 4 Paul continues to speak concerning his love for his fellow-Jews, and of his desire that they would come to follow Jesus. The Jews were zealous at keeping the laws of Moses and the Jewish rituals, but when Jesus the Messiah came, they failed to recognize Him and would not accept His message. Instead, they continued following the law. The only problem is, Christ is the end of the law and righteousness now comes through all who believe on Him.

vs. 5-21 Paul now compares the righteousness that the Jews were seeking in vain, with the righteousness that comes by faith. The Jews were demanding that Christ come down from Heaven or raise Himself from the grave and then they would follow. The righteousness the Jesus brought is based upon faith that Jesus has already done these things and we hold it in our hearts and share it with others. Paul speaks concerning the importance of confessing and stating our belief that Jesus is Lord. He shows how it is vital for our justification and salvation. Those who do confess, will find that they will not be let down or disappointed. This promise is to all who will believe.

Paul talks concerning the matter of spreading this message. He shows that for people to believe: people need to be sent to preach so that others can hear the message, believe and then call upon the Lord.

The word has gone out, but many Israelites have rejected it. In the meantime, Gentiles have come to believe and now serve the Creator of mankind and all the earth.

COMMENTARY

ROMANS 11: vs. 1-10:

Paul shows that God has not totally rejected ALL ISRAELITES. He shows, through the example of Elijah, that there are some Israelites, though not the majority and often overlooked, who compose a remnant. These are Israelites who have accepted Jesus and trust no longer in the keeping of the Law, but trust in the Son of God! PAUL IS NOT SAYING THAT THERE ARE JEWS WHO WILL BE SAVED BECAUSE OF THEIR KEEPING OF THE LAW OR BECAUSE THEY ARE JEWISH!!

The remainder of the Israelites are as though they were blind and deaf, so that they fail to see the Glory of the Lord and hear the message of salvation. They are in this state because of their stubbornness and self-reliance. They now will face destruction.

vs. 11-24:

Paul makes it clear that there is still hope. God has accepted the Gentile and has grafted (taking a branch and joining it with another plant, and in time the 2 plants form 1) them in with the Israelites who also believe. Because of Israel's sin (persecuting the early Jewish Church, which led to the evangelism of Gentiles), salvation has come to the entire world, and if that is the case, how much greater things would be if Israel also, would be obedient.

Paul hopes that some of those Jews who have rejected Christ, will come to accept Him when they see how Jesus can change people and gives hope to all. These Jews would then be just as acceptable, because of their faith, as the first Jews had been (this is the meaning of verse 16).

Paul now speaks concerning an olive tree that belongs to God. Originally, this tree was the nation of Israel. Those who have failed to accept Jesus, are the branches (natural or original) which have been cut off. The Gentiles (another olive, inferior because of their lack of exposure to God) though faith in Jesus are now accepted and grafted in (wild branches joining the original tree). They share in the same promises and messages that the Jewish Christians do. Any of the Jews who were cut off, can become acceptable to God again through faith (the original or natural branches being grafted back in again). Paul warns the Gentile believers to remain firm in their faith or else they too, will be cut off from God's people.

vs. 25-36:

Paul speaks to Gentiles who have become conceited and are hoping that God will now destroy Israel and only Gentiles will remain to be God's people. Paul shows that the Israelites will continue to exist as long as there are Gentiles accepting Christ as Savior. Then, all Israel (Jewish and Gentile Christians; for we have all become Jewish because of our faith; THIS WILL NOT INCLUDE JEWS WHO FAIL TO ACCEPT JESUS!!) will be saved and granted eternal life! Many Jews (those who fail to accept Christ, have become disobedient just as the Gentiles had been. Therefore, there is no place for pride or conceit, God in His vast wisdom, has seen to it that all men are dependent on Jesus Christ.

COMMENTARY

ROMANS 12:

vs. 1- 8:

Paul now challenges his readers to give their entire lives over to God, for in view of God's mercy, this is the only way to serve Him. We give our lives over by changing from the worlds standards to God's. By doing this, we will be better able to understand and follow the will of God.

Paul begins speaking of how our lives need to change. We need to thinkly of ourselves and see ourselves, as God does. Each one will have a role to fill and for the body of Christ to function properly, EACH ONE HAS TO DO THEIR JOB! (Let it be understood that prophesying, in Biblical terms, is revealing the Word of the Lord and does not necessarily refer to the prediction of future events)

vs. 9-21:

Paul continues to speak of our attitudes and shows how they are to become as God's. When compared to the worlds'; the contrast is easily seen. As our attitudes change, so will our actions and how we respond in different situations. We will try harder to get along with people and accept things in life rather than trying to get revenge. We will look our for the other person and be there when they need us. In so doing, Christians can overcome the evil in the world and continue to spread the message of Jesus Christ effectively.

STUDY GUIDE

ROMANS 10:

1. What was the Israelites zeal **NOT** based on?
2. Why is Christ the end of the law?
3. How does Moses describe the righteousness that is by the law?
4. Where is the word to be, according to verse 8?
5. How will one be saved, according to verse 9?
6. What is done through the heart and mouth? (see vs. 10)
7. What does Paul imply is needed, before people can hear?
8. What does Paul imply is necessary, before one can preach?
9. What did all the Israelites, not accept?
10. How does faith come? (see vs. 17)
11. Through whom, would God make Israel envious and angry?
12. By whom and to whom, was God found and revealed?

BONUS:

1. Explain how Christians zeal needs to be based on knowledge.
2. Explain how baptism, repentance and faithfulness in life fit in God's plan, in view of verses 9 and 10
3. How do you feel that the Israelites fit in today, in God's plan?

STUDY GUIDE

ROMANS 11:

1. Has God rejected His people, Israel?
2. What is there, at the present time/ (see vs. 5)
3. Who obtained what the Israelites so earnestly sought?
4. What is the result of Israel's transgressions?
5. What does Paul say, is the result of the rejection of the Jews?
6. What do the grafted branches now share in?
7. What will happen if Jews do NOT persist in unbelief?
8. For how long will Israel experience a hardening in part?
9. What did the deliverer from Zion, do?
10. As far as the gospel is concerned, how are they regarded on account of the Gentiles?
11. On whose account, are the Israelites loved concerning election?
12. What are unsearchable and beyond tracing out?

BONUS:

1. What is your understanding of God's present relationship with the Jews?
2. What meaning does the olive tree with natural and grafted branches, have for you?
3. How do you think, God will deal with the Jews in the future and for eternity?

STUDY GUIDE

ROMANS 12:

1. In view of God's mercy, how should we offer our bodies?
2. What will we be able to do if, we fail to conform to the word, but instead are transformed by the renewing of our minds?
3. How should we think of ourselves?
4. What do we, who are many in Christ, form?
5. What do we have that are different?
6. What are the gifts mentioned?
7. What must love be?
8. Who are we to share with?
9. How are we to live with one another?
10. With whom, are we to live in peace?
11. What should we not take, according to verse 19?
12. How can evil be overcome?

BONUS:

1. In what ways, do Christians conform to the world; and how would transforming of the mind, make a difference?
2. List what you feel your gifts are.
3. What areas do you need to work on; from verses 9-21?
- 13.