

Chapter 10 – “How can national Israel be reconciled to God?”

Despite being God’s chosen people, national Israel had a history of unfaithfulness to God which extended all the way to the time of Christ. Rather than pursuing salvation by faith alone, the Jews thought that they could be reconciled to God by their own means. Paul describes several of these aspects, which are all ultimately ways *not* to be saved. Match each of these descriptions with the verse(s) that it describes:

1. Works – The Jews thought they could be justified by their works. But to be justified works means we must live an entirely perfect life.

_____ “For I testify about them that they have a zeal for God, but not in accordance with knowledge.” Romans 10:2

2. Effort – The Jews believed they could endeavor to reach God by their own human effort. But no amount of our own self-will could bring the Savior down from heaven nor could it raise Him back to life.

_____ “For not knowing about God’s righteousness and seeking to establish their own, they did not subject themselves to the righteousness of God.” Romans 10:3

3. Self-righteousness – The Jews believed that their own standard of righteousness was a sufficient level of godliness. But our own standard falls terribly short of God’s standard.

_____ “For Christ is the end of the law for righteousness to everyone who believes. For Moses writes that the man who practices the righteousness which is based on the law shall live by that righteousness.” Romans 10:4-5

4. Sincerity – The Jews thought they were zealous for God. But simply being sincere about our salvation is not enough, because we could be sincerely wrong.

_____ “But the righteousness based on faith speaks as follows: ‘Do not say in your heart, ‘Who will ascend into heaven?’ (that is, to bring Christ down), or ‘Who will descend into the abyss?’ (that is, to bring Christ up from the dead.’” Romans 10:6-7

Instead of relying on works, effort, self-righteousness, and sincerity, Paul reiterates in Romans 10:9-10 that there is one, and only one, way to be saved. Rather than straining to reach God in heaven (Rom 10:6), the Jews simply needed to _____ that Jesus *is* Lord in heaven, and rather than thinking they would need to raise Christ from the dead (Rom 10:7), the Jews simply needed to _____ in their hearts that the Father *already* brought Christ back to life. In other words, Romans 10:9-10 is not a quick formula that you can recite to be saved, but instead represents an abandonment of all human effort in favor of total reliance on God through Christ for salvation.

Chapter 10 – “How can national Israel be reconciled to God?” (continued)

Despite explaining in Romans 9 that God sovereignly chooses who will be saved, Paul makes it clear that the elect must hear the Gospel message in order to be saved – they are not simply saved by virtue of being chosen by God. Instead, Paul states in Romans 10:17 that faith comes by hearing, and hearing by the word of Christ. The following steps of evangelism are given by Paul in Romans 10:14-15. Number them from 1-5, with 1 representing the first step that must take place for someone to be saved:

- _____ The Christian must preach the Gospel.
- _____ The Christian must be sent to preach the Gospel.
- _____ The hearers of the Gospel message must believe.
- _____ The Christian’s Gospel message must be heard.
- _____ The believers of the Gospel message must call on the Lord.

What is the expected answer to each question in Romans 10:14-15? What implications does this have regarding evangelism?

After explaining that national Israel has been temporarily rejected in favor of the Gentiles, Paul defends this in Romans 10:18-21 by appealing to Old Testament scriptures. First, he responds to the anticipated excuse from the Jews that they simply haven’t all had an opportunity to hear the Gospel. So in Romans 10:18 Paul refers to the words of David to make the comparison that just as creation testifies to the whole world about God’s existence, so too have the Apostles testified to the whole world about the Gospel of Jesus Christ. Thus, the Jews have in fact heard the Gospel.

What Old Testament passage does Paul cite for his comparison? _____

Next, Paul anticipates the excuse from the Jews that they weren’t aware that God would turn from them if they rejected the Gospel message. So in Romans 10:19 Paul refers to the words of Moses to make the comparison that just as Moses prophesied that God would use pagan nations to judge the disobedient Israelites in the Promised Land, so too God has presently turned away from the Jews in favor of the Gentiles as an act of judgment. Thus, the Jews should have known that Gentiles would be used by God in response to their unbelief in the Gospel.

What Old Testament passage does Paul cite for his comparison? _____

Finally, Paul explains that the Jews also should have been aware that God would embrace the Gentiles after they rejected God’s gracious plea to embrace Christ, as given through the preaching of the Gospel message. So in Romans 10:20-21, Paul refers to the words of Isaiah to make the comparison that just as God saved pagans in the pre-exilic kingdom of Judah when Israel rejected His plea for repentance, so too God is presently embracing Gentiles while the Jews remain unrepentant and unresponsive to the Gospel. Thus, the Jews should have known that God would turn His attention to repentant Gentiles in favor of the unbelieving Jews.

What Old Testament passage does Paul cite for his comparison? _____

What is significant about the 3 places from the Old Testament that Paul cites?
