

✠ Our hearts desire?

- *We just finished up Romans 9- where Paul focused on the essential idea that God is SOVEREIGN, doing so through the lens of God's work through the OT history of Israel. For most of chapter 9, Paul's emphasis is on how GOD works, according to HIS plans, not ours, on HIS terms, not ours, forms us for HIS purposes... and how EVERYTHING about how God relates to us as his creation is an expression of His MERCY. A summation: As GOD, the Creator, God owes us, his creation, NOTHING. And yet, in His mercy, IN CHRIST, he has given us everything.*
- *CHAP 9: God is in control, He is sovereign.*
- *NOW, as we move into Chapter 10, Paul's focus shifts to how WE RESPOND to God's mercy.*
- *Chap 9: God's plan, God's mercy.... Chap 10 is all about God's Grace and our faith.*
- *He begins by expressing the GREAT DESIRE of his heart... that his people, the Israelites, would come to know Christ. NOT that they would adopt a new religion, but come to know the reality of NEW LIFE- the NEW COVENANT God made with humanity through the cross.*

Romans 10:1-3 *Brothers and sisters, my heart's desire and prayer to God for the Israelites (them) is that they may be saved.*

- *What is your heart's greatest desire?*
- *That's a hard question, takes some real thought. Our mind might start shallow, and then as we think, might become more profound.*
 - *Possessions. Lots of amazing things...*
 - *Experiences. Lots of incredible things to do, see*
 - *Health*
 - *MOST OF US, our mind quickly moves to helping others. Meet needs? Deeper still... DESIRE that those we love truly know PEACE. HOPE. HEALTH. CONTENTMENT. FULFILLMENT. PURPOSE.*
- *As believers, if HE is our hope, we are experiencing CHRIST as our life- LIKE PAUL our greatest desire will be that someone would come to know this same NEW LIFE... Paul desires this (great emotion), he prays for it, and as we go through chap 10, he will describe the action this desire and prayer will result.*
- *NOW.. he gives us great tragedy of his people...*

² *For I can testify about them that they are zealous for God, but their zeal is not based on knowledge. ³ Since they did not know the righteousness of God and sought to establish their own, they did not submit to God's righteousness.*
- *Have to say- it is a tragedy when people sincerely pursue spirituality, but do so apart from God's TRUTH. Knowledge of WHO GOD IS, what HE HAS DONE, in his WORD. Possible to be sincerely wrong!*
- *Israel was zealous for God... What did they miss? The RIGHTEOUSNESS OF GOD- meaning 'rightness with God'.*
- *They didn't understand that they could NOT achieve their own rightness with God by their own efforts, and so they sought to establish their rightness, their value... on their own.*
- *But this results in the great lesson of human history... WE CANNOT BE RIGHT WITH GOD ON OUR OWN. WE can't measure up. When we try, we fail.*

- **THE IRONY** here is that even though they earnestly tried to be right with God through their own efforts, this led to a focus on **THEMSELVES**, causing them to miss God's **GIFT** of righteousness when Christ came.
- **SAME TODAY-** when we choose to make life work in our own strength, our own wisdom, on our terms- even as believers- we are refusing to submit to God's plan- His gift of **RIGHTEOUSNESS-** through faith in Christ.
- **But back to Israel. HOW** did they seek to establish their own righteousness? **THROUGH THE LAW.** And here we have one of the great clear declarations of the **NEW COVENANT** that so many Christians traditions have missed- **CHRIST IS THE CULMINATION- THE END-** of the law.

✠ Christ the culmination

Romans 10:4-5 *Christ is the culmination of the law so that there may be righteousness for everyone who believes.*

- **What is the 'law'?** **MOSAIC LAW.** Concept that we are able to be in right relationship with God through our ability to live according to a moral code, which for the jews, spelled out in God's law to moses. Also means **ANY** form of performance based acceptance.
- **CHRIST-** the cross, is the **"END"** of the law. **IN TERMS OF HOW WE ARE IN RELATIONSHIP WITH GOD, AND** how actually able to live, the law is **DONE.**
- **Cross.** **"IT IS FINISHED"...** part of what Jesus meant

Hebrews 7:18-19 *The former regulation is set aside because it was weak and useless¹⁹ (for the law made nothing perfect), and a better hope is introduced, by which we draw near to God.*

- **If this is new, messages on chap 5-7. HUGE**
- **Paul now makes his case with series of references from Deuteronomy, the source code of the LAW**

⁵ *Moses writes this about the righteousness that is by the law: "The person who does these things will live by them."*

- **In other words, If your righteousness is going to be through the law, then you must keep ALL OF IT. But we can't, and IN THIS** we see the entirety of Israels struggle with the Mosaic law as a great beacon pointing to the freedom, **NEW COV, in Christ.**
- **In Galatians 2:19 Paul proclaims-**

¹⁹ **"For through the law I died to the law so that I might live for God.** ²⁰ I have been crucified with Christ and I no longer live, but Christ lives in me. The life I now live in the body, I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave himself for me. ²¹ I do not set aside the grace of God, for if righteousness could be gained through the law, Christ died for nothing!"

- **In Galatians 4, Paul asks "Tell me, you who want to live by the law, do you know what the law says", uses the story of Sarah and Hagar to illustrate that the mosaic covenant had placed the children of Israel in bondage, whereas the NEW COVENANT in Christ brings freedom. THIS NEW COVENANT is where our RIGHTEOUSNESS is by FAITH.**

✠ The Righteousness that is by Faith

Romans 10:6-8 *But the righteousness that is by faith says: "Do not say in your heart, 'Who will ascend into heaven?'" (that is, to bring Christ down)⁷ "or 'Who will descend into the deep?'" (that is, to bring Christ up from the dead).*

- **Again Paul loosely quotes from Deut, but he gives two statements for something that is impossible.**
- **Don't think that Christ is FAR away from you, and that by your performance you can make him come close. (!! What a picture of legalistic Christianity!!)**

⁸But what does it (**righteousness by faith**) say? “The word is near you; it is in your mouth and in your heart,” that is, the message concerning faith that we proclaim:

- **The ‘WORD’- the GOSPEL- God’s message that by FAITH IN CHRIST we receive new/eternal life- it is RIGHT HEAR... in our hearts, and on our lips.**
- **This WORD is what we have been proclaiming... and HERE, Paul lays out...**

† Humanities great hope

Romans 10:9-10 *If you declare with your mouth, “Jesus is Lord,” and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved. ¹⁰ For it is with your heart that you believe and are justified, and it is with your mouth that you profess your faith and are saved.*

- **“Declare”... not magic in just saying words. Declare= “This is what I believe... this is now foundation of my life” Jesus is LORD. “LORD”= King. In charge. Source of my life.**
- **Religion wants to make this formula... how?**
- **To say Christ is LORD is to say what Paul says at end of Chap 11... “For from him and through him and for him are all things. To him be the glory forever! Amen!”**
- **“Believe”... HEART represents our total being. In all of who I am, I BELIEVE- FAITH- in the RESURRECTION OF CHRIST. Not just that it happened, but that BECAUSE it happened, it means that Christ is GOD. BECAUSE it happened, Christ defeated death... most importantly, IT HAPPENED FOR ME, so that by FAITH, I MAY LIVE.**

¹⁰ *For it is with your heart that you believe and are justified, and it is with your mouth that you profess your faith and are saved.*

- **“Heart/believe- mouth/justify” two expressions of the same action. INNER BELIEF that will result in OUTER ACTION. If we believe, we will express...**
- **WITH ALL OF WHO I AM, as much as I understand, JESUS, you are God, you rose again, you are LORD.**
-
- **34 years ago- 1984- one of the high water marks of American culture and cinema- story of a band of brothers who delivered new York from forces of evil through skilled use of unlicensed nuclear accelerators... Dan Ackroyd/Bill Murray- GhostBusters... WHO YOU GONNA CALL!**
- **Paul concludes this thought by answering that question... WE KNOW WHAT LIFE IS. WE CALL UPON so many things to try and make life work... There is only one name to call that brings life...**

† Who do you call?

Romans 10:11-13 *As Scripture says, “Anyone who believes in him will never be put to shame.”* ¹² *For there is no difference between Jew and Gentile—the same Lord is Lord of all and richly blesses all who call on him,* ¹³ *for, “Everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved.”*

- ***What are the blessings? CHRIST! HOPE! PEACE!... His presence with you each day...***
- ***Have you called upon Jesus?***

EDWARDS: End with communion... Jesus’s prophetic act, taking the ancient celebration of Passover- God’s deliverance of Hebrews from bondage to Pharaoh, and gave it NEW MEANING, that through is DEATH AND RESURRECTION, every person may receive deliverance from bondage to sin and death.