

The Book of Romans

The Gospel of God

Two Present Realities:

1. God is calling a multitude of Gentiles to be His people (Rom. 9:24-26)

¹¹ Therefore remember that formerly you, the Gentiles in the flesh...¹² you were at that time separate from Christ, excluded from the commonwealth of Israel, and strangers to the covenants of promise, having no hope and without God in the world. ¹³ But now in Christ Jesus you who formerly were far off have been brought near by the blood of Christ...¹⁹ So then you are no longer strangers and aliens, but you are fellow citizens with the saints, and are of God's household,

(Eph. 2:11-13,19)

⁴ By referring to this, when you read you can understand my insight into the mystery of Christ, ⁵ which in other generations was not made known to the sons of men, as it has now been revealed to His holy apostles and prophets in the Spirit; ⁶ *to be specific*, that the Gentiles are fellow heirs and fellow members of the body, and fellow partakers of the promise in Christ Jesus through the gospel.

(Eph. 3:4-6)

Two Present Realities:

1. God is calling a multitude of Gentiles to be His people (Rom. 9:24-26)
2. God has left only a remnant of Israel as His people (Rom. 9:27-29)

³⁰ What shall we say then? That Gentiles, who did not pursue righteousness, attained righteousness, even the righteousness which is by faith;

³¹ but Israel, pursuing a law of righteousness, did not arrive at *that law*.

³² Why? Because *they did not pursue it* by faith, but as though *it were* by works. They stumbled over the stumbling stone,

³³ just as it is written,

"BEHOLD, I LAY IN ZION A STONE OF STUMBLING AND A ROCK OF OFFENSE,
AND HE WHO BELIEVES IN HIM WILL NOT BE PUT TO SHAME."

(Romans 9:30-33)

Christ, the Stumbling Stone

1. Regarding Gentiles

- Gentiles did not pursue the saving righteousness of God which results in a right standing with God
- Gentiles attained this righteousness, which is by faith alone in Christ Jesus

Christ, the Stumbling Stone

2. Regarding Israel

- Israel pursued the (Mosaic) Law which promises righteousness when its demands are met
- Israel failed in this pursuit because they did not pursue the Law by faith but by works

Q: *What does "pursuing the Law by faith" mean?*

- to realize the human bondage to sin that the Law exposes by its unqualified demands
- to trust the promise of God's righteousness found in Jesus Christ alone

Christ, the Stumbling Stone

2. Regarding Israel

- Israel pursued the (Mosaic) Law which promises righteousness when its demands are met
- Israel failed in this pursuit because they did not pursue the Law by faith but by works
- Israel's wrong pursuit of the Law led it to stumble over Christ, the end and goal of the Law

Christ, the Stumbling Stone

➤ Implications

- the gospel is an offense to everyone seeking to establish their own righteousness
- all who believe on Jesus for righteousness will never be put to shame