

The Book of Romans

The Gospel of God

Brethren, my heart's desire and my prayer to God for them is for *their* salvation.

² For I bear them witness that they have a zeal for God, but not in accordance with knowledge.

³ For not knowing about God's righteousness and seeking to establish their own, they did not subject themselves to the righteousness of God.

⁴ For Christ is the end of the law, so that there might be righteousness for everyone who believes.

(Romans 10:1-4)

I am telling the truth in Christ, I am not lying, my conscience bearing me witness in the Holy Spirit,

² that I have great sorrow and unceasing grief in my heart.

³ For I could pray that I myself were accursed, *separated* from Christ for the sake of my brethren, my kinsmen according to the flesh,

⁴ who are Israelites, to whom belongs the adoption as sons, and the glory and the covenants and the giving of the Law and the *temple* service and the promises,

⁵ whose are the fathers, and from whom is the Christ according to the flesh, who is over all, God blessed forever. Amen.

(Romans 9:1-5)

Israel and God's Righteousness

1. Paul's Desire

- he desires Israel's salvation, which implies that they are not presently "saved"
- his belief in the sovereignty of God in salvation did not diminish his desire or his praying

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2. Israel's Zeal

- it was a genuine (sincere) passion and devotion for God
- it was not according to knowledge, and therefore opposed to God
- it included their desire to establish their own law-based righteousness which kept them from submitting to God's righteousness

...as to the Law, a Pharisee; ⁶ as to zeal, a persecutor of the church; as to the righteousness which is in the Law, found blameless.

⁷ But whatever things were gain to me, those things I have counted as loss for the sake of Christ. ⁸ More than that, I count all things to be loss in view of the surpassing value of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord, for whom I have suffered the loss of all things, and count them but rubbish so that I may gain Christ, ⁹ and may be found in Him, not having a righteousness of my own derived from *the* Law, but that which is through faith in Christ, the righteousness which *comes* from God on the basis of faith,

(Philippians 3:5-9)

Israel and God's Righteousness

3. God's Righteousness

- God's saving activity through judgment in which God is vindicated and the ungodly are justified
- His righteousness is revealed in the death and resurrection of Jesus
- We submit to His righteousness by faith alone in Christ alone

Israel and God's Righteousness

➤ Implication

- God's righteousness in Christ is diametrically opposed to any attempt to establish one's own righteousness by works