

The Book of Romans

The Gospel of God

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."

¹ 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.

(Romans 9:30-10:3)

Nature of Israel's Unbelief

- They pursued the Law as a means of establishing a right standing with God based on works, and, therefore, did not receive the gift of God's righteousness in Christ crucified and risen.

"For Christ is the end of the Law so that there might be righteousness for everyone who believes." (10:4)

The Law and Gospel

1. The Culmination of the Law

- Christ is the goal and the end of the Mosaic Law
- Christ, by ending the era of the Law, has made God's righteousness available to everyone by faith alone

The Law and Gospel

2. Righteousness Based on Law

- the Law embodies, in its very nature, the principle that obedience to it would result in a right standing with God ("life")
- yet this way of righteousness is impossible due to human sin, and therefore this pursuit of the Law only leads to death

¹⁰ For as many as are of the works of the Law are under a curse; for it is written, "CURSED IS EVERYONE WHO DOES NOT ABIDE BY ALL THINGS WRITTEN IN THE BOOK OF THE LAW, TO PERFORM THEM."

¹¹ Now that no one is justified by the Law before God is evident; for, "THE RIGHTEOUS MAN SHALL LIVE BY FAITH."

¹² However, the Law is not of faith; on the contrary, "HE WHO PRACTICES THEM SHALL LIVE BY THEM."

(Galatians 3:10-12)

The Law and Gospel

3. Righteousness Based on Faith

- this righteousness is completely the work of God in Christ and not based on any human effort
- this righteousness is accessible to anyone through faith in Christ

The Law and Gospel

➤ Implication

- there are only two ways of seeking a right relationship with God – "doing" or "believing"; the first leads to judgment, the second to salvation