

BIBLE CORRESPONDENCE FELLOWSHIP

ROMANS Lesson Three



CHAPTER NINE

GOD'S RIGHTEOUSNESS REJECTED BY ISRAEL

In this section of Romans, chapters 9-11, God is dealing directly with His chosen nation Israel, not with individual Jews or Gentiles. You may recall that in chapters two and three we learned that God had blessed the Jews in a special way by giving them the written Law of God (the Commandments), the oracles of God (the Old Testament) and direct revelation through the prophets. Yet God chose to set Israel aside as a nation because of her rejection of Christ as the promised Messiah.

During this present age, or dispensation of grace, God is saving Jews and Gentiles individually, apart from any covenant or promise. Chapter 9 demonstrates God's sovereignty, that is, His absolute freedom to do as He pleases. Read Romans 9:1-5. _____ Check.

1. (v. 2) How do we know that Paul was deeply burdened? _____

2. (v. 3-4a) For whom was he especially concerned? _____
3. List eight privileges God gave the Jews.
 - (v. 4) 1. _____
 2. _____
 3. _____
 4. _____
 5. _____
 6. _____
 - (v. 5) 7. _____
 8. _____
4. Israel's greatest privilege was that through them _____ would come.
5. (v. 6) Is everyone who is born a Jew a true Israelite? _____
6. (v. 7) Is everyone a child of the promise who is a descendant of Abraham? _____

Note: Paul is comparing natural birth with spiritual birth.

(v. 8) Who are the children of God? _____

7. (v. 9) What promise did God make to Abraham and Sarah? _____
_____.

Read Genesis 17:15-21; 18:10-18; 25:21-26. _____ Check.

9. Who were the sons of Abraham?

From Gen. 16:1-16 _____

From Gen. 21:1-3 _____

From Gen. 21: 9-12 Through which son did God choose to fulfill His promise of blessing? _____

From Gen. 25: 21-26 Who were the sons of Isaac? _____

Read Romans 9:10-18. _____ Check.

10. Does God have the right to choose those through whom He will fulfill his purposes? _____

Which son of Isaac did God choose? _____

(This choosing at will is sometimes referred to as the DOCTRINE OF ELECTION.)

11. (v. 14) Is God unfair in his dealings with man? _____

(v. 15) Does God choose those on whom He will have mercy? _____

12. (v. 17) For what purpose did God raise up Pharaoh at the time of Moses? _____
_____.

Read Exodus 14:1-18. _____ Check.

13. (Exodus 14:4) Did God harden Pharaoh's heart? _____ (This is God's method of dealing with those who resist his will).

14. (Exodus 14:4) For what reason did He do this? _____

God can use evil to accomplish good, as evidenced in His dealings with Pharaoh.

Read Romans 9:19-24. _____ Check.

15. (v. 20) What question should we never ask God? _____

16. (v. 21) Since God is the Creator, does He have the authority to do with us as He pleases? _____

17. (vv. 22-23) Why does God endure with longsuffering (patience) the vessels of wrath (the objects of his anger)? _____

18. (v. 23) Who are the vessels of mercy (the objects of His anger)? _____

Read Romans 9:25-29. _____ Check. **What the Prophets Foretold.**

In these four verses, Paul quotes from the prophets Hosea and Isaiah to show that the true children of God were those He called out of the nation of Israel.

19. (v. 27) How many of the nation of Israel will be saved? _____

Read and compare the following scriptures:

Romans 9:25 and Hosea 2:23

Romans 9:26 and Hosea 1:10

Romans 9:27-29 and Isaiah 10:22-23

These verses show how God fulfills His word, though it was prophesied hundreds of years in advance.

Read Romans 9:30-33. _____ Check.

20. (v. 30) Did the Gentiles pursue righteousness? _____

21. (v. 30) Did they attain it? _____

22. (v. 31) Did Israel pursue righteousness? _____

23. (v. 31) Did they attain it? _____

24. (v. 32a) Why not? _____

25. (v. 32b) How did Israel seek righteousness? _____

26. (v. 32b) What caused them to stumble? _____

27. (1 Corinthians 1:23; and also 1 Peter 2:4-8) Who was this stumbling stone? _____

SUMMARY

The Gentiles, while not seeking righteousness, recognized their lost condition, and turned to Christ for salvation. The Jews, as a nation, pursued righteousness on their own merit and rejected the Savior.

CHAPTER TEN

THE JEW IN THE PRESENT

In Romans 9 through 11, we have many references from the Old Testament Scriptures. Such references are called *proof texts*, and are used by Paul as positive authority for the spiritual truths he is proclaiming. Certain facts in the New Testament are often established by quoting a passage from the Old Testament. There are fifteen such references in Romans 10. Read Romans Chapter 10. _____ Check.

1. (v. 1) What was Paul's desire for Israel? _____

2. (v. 2) Though these people had religious zeal, what did they lack? _____

3. (v. 3b) Of what were they guilty? _____

Note: Man's attempt at righteousness can never satisfy God because God demands a perfect righteousness which man cannot produce. God Himself supplied this righteousness in the person of Christ. Read 1 Corinthians 1:30; 2 Corinthians 5:21; Romans 4:6. It becomes ours when we receive Christ as our Savior. We then have the same standing before God as Christ.

4. Write out verse 4 using your own words. _____

Please note that Christ is the end of the Law. “The Law leads up to Him who is the fulfillment of its types and in Him the purpose of the Law, which it was designed to accomplish, is fulfilled as the means of righteousness (right relationship to God) for everyone who trusts Him”(The Amplified New Testament).

Read Romans 10:5-10. _____ Check.

Take special note of the contrasts between righteousness of the Law and righteousness by faith.

5. (v. 5) What did the righteousness of God require? _____
(Romans 3:10) Was man able to keep that Law? _____
6. (vv. 6-8) These verses are based on a passage from Deuteronomy 30:12-14, where Moses said that God’s Word was not far away or out of reach. Paul applies this principle to the gospel of Christ.
(v. 8) According to this verse in what three places is the Word found?
1. _____
2. _____
3. _____

Read Romans 10:9-11. _____ Check.

7. (v. 9) What then must we do to be saved? Use your own words. _____

Note: The word *confess* here means to **acknowledge** something as true. **It does not mean that a person has to confess his beliefs before men in order to be saved, as that would be a legal requirement, or work.** Our confession is not by our physical lips any more than our belief is in our physical heart. We are under grace. Eventually believers do confess their faith by their words and their lives because they are thankful for their salvation.

8. (v. 11) What do you think is the meaning of this verse? _____

Read Romans 10:12-23. _____ Check.

9. (v. 12) There is no difference between the Jew and the Greek (Gentile). Why _____

10. (v. 13) This verse is also a quote from the Old Testament (Joel 2:32). What does God promise in this verse? _____

11. (v. 14) Complete the following questions:
1. How can they call on the one _____?
 2. How can they believe in the one _____?
 3. How can they hear without _____?
12. (v. 15) How can they preach except _____?
 What are they preaching? _____
13. (v. 17) How does faith come? _____
 How does hearing come? _____

In verses 18-21 Paul quotes various Old Testament scriptures to prove that the Gentiles would receive God's revelation while the Jews rejected it.

Read the following verses and compare with those above.

Psalms 19:4. _____ Check. Deuteronomy 32:21. _____ Check. Isaiah 65:1-2. _____ Check.

14. (v. 18) Did Israel hear the word of God? _____

Note: Whether to the Jew or Gentile, the Word of God must be preached or taught before one can have faith in Christ. How important it is then for Christians to tell the Gospel (the good news of salvation) to others?

15. (v. 19) What did Moses say God would do when Israel did not understand? _____
 _____.

16. (v. 20a) According to Esaias (Isaiah), who found God? _____
 (v. 20b) God was made manifest (revealed) to whom? _____

17. (v. 21) Israel did not believe because God said they were a _____ and _____ people.

CONSIDER THIS: If the heathen Gentile and religious Jew were "without excuse" according to the scripture, think of the condemnation one faces who rejects the wonderful Gospel of Grace when it is so clearly revealed through the writings of Paul. Please share your thoughts on this.

CHAPTER ELEVEN

THE JEW – IN THE FUTURE

This chapter discusses God's dealings with Israel-- how He set them aside because of their unbelief, and how He turned to the Gentile nations. The Gentiles are now on equal footing with Israel before God. In the future Israel will be saved and restored according to the Kingdom promises. Because Paul speaks so often about Israel in this chapter, he has quoted ten verses from the Old Testament.

Read Romans 11:1-6. _____ Check.

1. (v. 1) What question does Paul ask? _____
2. (v. 1) What proof does Paul give that God has not cast away all the people of Israel? _____

3. (vv. 2-4) Paul refers to the prophet Elijah (Elias) in the Old Testament (1 Kings 19:10-18). Elijah thought he was the only one who remained faithful to God during the time when Israel had turned to idol worship, Baal being their chief idol. What was God's answer to him? _____

4. (vv. 5-6) In verse five Paul mentions a *remnant* in Israel (a spiritual Israel within the nation Israel). In verse 6, what two words are opposites? _____

Grace means the undeserved love, mercy and kindness of God towards us. During this age God saves all people alike, whether Jew or Gentile -- by grace through faith without works. (Ephesians 2:8-10)

By *works* we mean man's attempt to obtain God's blessing by his own good deeds, his high moral standards, or his religious activities. Good works are the result of a person being saved, but they do not earn or merit salvation in any form. Romans 11:6 shows that one cannot be saved by grace and by works at the same time. One cancels out the other.

Read Romans 11:7-12. _____ Check. **Israel is Blinded**

5. (v. 7) Did the nation Israel in search of righteousness obtain it? _____
Who did obtain it? _____ (This refers to the faithful remnant or to spiritual Jews.)
What happened to the rest? _____

In vv. 8-10 Paul quotes from Isaiah 29:10 and Psalm 69:22-23 to show God had warned that punishment would come to Israel because of their rejection of God's way of salvation.

6. (v. 11) What was God's great purpose in allowing Israel to fall? _____

- How would Israel feel towards the Gentiles? _____

God wanted to provoke this jealousy so that the Jews would realize the blessing they had missed and turn back to God for salvation. If Israel's fall (read v. 12) brought the spiritual riches of Christ to the rest of the world, how much greater a blessing the world will share when the Jews also come to Christ and the nation Israel is restored to its rightful position.

7. (v. 12) Israel's transgression became what? _____

Read Romans 11:13-15. _____ Check. **Warning to the Gentiles**

8. (v. 13) Paul is the only writer in the Bible who directly addresses Gentiles (also see Romans 15:16).

Why is this? _____

9. (v. 15) What is the result of Israel being rejected? _____

What will be the result of Israel's restoration in the future? _____

Note: Additional verses on Paul's authority can be found in 1 Cor. 9:17; Gal. 1:11-12; Eph. 3:6-9; 1 Tim. 1:11-16; 1 Tim. 2:5-7; Titus 1:1-3; and Gal. 2:7-14. Paul was chosen of God to reveal His truth for this present age. This is most important for Bible students to understand, so that they do not confuse the Gospel of Grace God gave through Paul with the Gospel of the Kingdom concerning the reign of Christ on earth. The promises to Israel concerned a future kingdom which Christ preached in the Gospels (Matthew, Mark, Luke and John) and to which Peter referred in the early chapters of Acts. Paul's message concerns the Church, the Body of Christ. Both are centered in Christ, but while the former is a promised or prophesied Kingdom on earth, the other was a mystery kept secret since the world began until revealed to and through Paul. The Body of Christ is composed of both Jews and Gentiles who have believed on Christ (Romans 10:9-10; Acts 16:31; Ephesians 2:8-9).

"In Paul's writings ALONE we find the doctrine, position, walk and destiny of the Church," (the Body of Christ, that is, the union of Christ with individual believers, whether Jew or Gentile). C.I. Scofield.

Read Romans 11:16-24. _____ Check.

Verses 16 through 24 discuss the place of spiritual privilege before God. This place is represented by an olive tree (v. 17). The unbelieving ones of Israel are the broken off branches, and the Gentiles are the grafted in branches of a wild olive tree. The Gentile nations now have this position of spiritual privilege.

10. (v. 19) Before we Gentiles could be grafted in, what had to happen? _____

11. (v. 20) Why were the branches broken off? _____

12. (vv. 20-22) Here we have warnings to the Gentile world not to be unbelieving (as Israel was), but to stand by faith and fear. God's kindness will continue, provided that we do what? _____

13. (vv. 23-24) Israel, the natural branches, are referred to again. In the future, if they will turn to God from their unbelief, what will God do for them? _____

14. (v. 25) This verse refers to a mystery (a secret that is now revealed). What did Paul say this mystery is? _____

Note: the fullness of the Gentiles refers to the completion of God's dispensation of grace to the nations. After this the prophecies concerning Israel, the seven-year tribulation and the 1000-year Kingdom will be fulfilled.

Read Romans 11:26-33. _____ Check. **The Nation Israel to be Saved**

15. (vv. 26-27) List three prophecies concerning Israel:

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____

16. (v. 29) What does this verse say concerning God's gifts and calling? _____

17 (vv. 30-31) In times past, the Gentiles were far from God, but because of Israel's unbelief, God turned to the Gentiles (see also v. 11). How may those of Israel now find mercy (salvation)? _____

Read Romans 11:32-36. _____ Check. **A Hymn of Praise**

18. (v. 32) Why has God included all (Jews and Gentiles) in unbelief? _____

19. (v. 33) What does this verse say about God's judgments and his ways?

1. His judgments are _____.
2. His ways (paths) are _____

20. (vv. 34-36) Verses 34 and 35 show that God's wisdom and knowledge are far greater than ours. Verse 36 says that all things are _____, and _____, and _____.

CHAPTER TWELVE

GOD'S RIGHTEOUSNESS IN OUR LIVES

The preceding chapters of Romans have shown the great things God has done for us. Because He has done these things, we find in Chapter 12 a plea for personal consecration to God and to His will for our spiritual life. The last 13 verses give practical instruction about how God would have us live in our relationships with others.

Read Romans 12:1-2. _____ Check.

1. (v. 1) Because of God's mercies, what does Paul ask the believers to do? _____

Note: We are to present our "bodies," not our "selves." The old nature (self) was put to death on the cross. The new nature, the indwelling Christ, should now live THROUGH our bodies.

2. (v. 2) What are we not to do? _____

What should we do? _____

What three things describe the will of God? _____

3. Is the presentation of our bodies to God a reasonable thing to do? (Read 1 Corinthians 6:19-20 before answering.) Yes ____ No ____

Turn your bodies over to the Holy Spirit, allowing Him to plan, direct and think for you and in you; then shall you be able to prove in actual experience the will of God for you to be good, acceptable and perfect.

Read Romans 12:3-8. _____ Check. **The Christian in Service**

4. (v. 3) What are we told about how we are to think (or estimate) of ourselves? _____

It is perfectly reasonable to give back to God that which He purchased and which belongs to Him. The sinner saved by grace can come to only this conclusion. "*Since Christ died for me, I now want to live for Him.*"

5. (v. 4) All believers are members of the Body of Christ (see 1 Corinthians 12:12-13), but they do not all have the _____

6. (v. 5) Name two things that are said about spiritual unity of believers: We are _____

7. Underline the correct word or words.

1. Every man ought to think (highly) (soberly) of himself.

2. God has (dealt) (not dealt) to every man the measure of faith, that is, a degree of faith.

3. All members, or parts of our physical bodies (perform) (do not perform) the same work.

4. Members of the Body of Christ, that is, all believers in Christ (belong) (do not belong) to one another.

Read again Romans 12:6-8. _____ Check.

Here we have a list of seven different gifts God has given to individual believers to build up or edify the Church, the Body of Christ. Prophecy is the first gift mentioned. A prophet is a *forthteller* of the mind of God. The Old Testament prophets prophesied by direct revelation from God apart from the written word of God. But now that the scriptures are complete, the prophet of God speaks according to that which is written.

8. (v. 6) Spiritual gifts differ according to _____. What special gift is mentioned here? _____.

This gift is mentioned with the miracle gifts of 1 Corinthians 12:7-11, where certain men received revelations from God and preached them to the church before they had the written Word of the New Testament. This gift of prophecy is not found in any of Paul's later epistles, for Paul said (in 1 Corinthians 13:8), "...prophecies...shall fail (cease)."

9. (vv. 7-8) There are six spiritual gifts from God listed in these two verses. What are they?
 1. _____ 2. _____
 3. _____ 4. _____
 5. _____ 6. _____
10. (v. 9) We should abhor (hate) what? _____
 We should cleave (cling) to what? _____
11. (v. 10) What two ways does this verse tell us to be devoted (kindly affectioned) to each other?
 1. _____ 2. _____
12. (v.11) What three things are true of the believer? He or she 1. _____
 2. _____ 3. _____
13. (v. 12) Name three things a believer should be. 1. _____ 2. _____
 3. _____
14. (v. 13) In what two ways did Paul tell believers to be involved in giving to the needs of others? (See Romans 15:25-26). _____
15. (v. 14) We tend to say hateful things about those who oppose or persecute us. What are we told to do instead? _____
16. (v. 15) How may we show sympathy to others? _____

17. (v. 16) Give three ways that will help avoid strife/anger with each other. 1. _____
 2. _____ 3. _____
18. (vv. 17-19) Use your own words to tell how you are to respond if someone tells lies about you or hurts you in some way. _____

19. (vv. 20-21) In what way can you overcome evil with good? _____

20. For review, read Romans 12:9-21 and fill in the blank for each of the statements below.

Relations with Believers:

Be _____ in times of trouble.

Be _____ to one another in brotherly love.

_____ what is evil; stand on the side of good.

Love one another. _____ with God's people in need.

Live in _____ with one another.

Don't be _____, but enjoy ordinary people.

Honor _____ above yourself.

Relations with Unbelievers:

Never try to get _____. Let the Lord pay back.

Do _____ before all men.

_____ your enemy.

_____ repay evil for evil.

_____ those who curse you.

Overcome evil by doing good.

Every Christian must agree that these are reasonable things for God to expect. If you were to check your life by this list, how well would you measure up? As Christians (Christ's own) we owe it to Him and to others to walk according to His word.

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