

[Romans 9:25 – 10:6]

~ In the last leg of our expedition, we consumed the most potent medicine in the Word of God; but we didn't finish our prescribed dosage. Paul has made it more than clear that Israel was chosen by God to be His people; and that only by His sovereign will! The fact Israel was chosen as God's people has *NOTHING* to do with their merit or goodness – nothing – besides the sovereign will and purpose of the True and Living God. It is not to him that willeth or worketh, but it is God that showeth mercy, my beloved. We can all thank God for that today – I know I do. Of course, we're always speaking of a remnant when we speak of Israel and, today, God is calling out a people unto His Name from among *both* Jews and Gentiles....

IX

25 As he saith also in Hosea, I will call them my people, which were not my people; and her beloved, which was not beloved.

26 And it shall come to pass, that in the place where it was said unto them, Ye are not my people; there shall they be called the children of the living God.

~ This prophecy from Hosea chapter one verse ten refers to Gentiles. Peter assigns prophecy to the believing remnant of Israel in his day, which perpetuated the nation. Peter instructed his people who had turned to Christ, "... ye are a chosen generation; a royal priesthood; a Holy Nation and a peculiar people to show forth praises of Him Who has called you out of darkness and into His marvelous light." Well, *HERE* we're talking about Gentiles; and about anyone who will turn to Christ. James said, "... that the residue of men might seek after the Lord, and all the Gentiles, upon whom my name is called, saith the Lord, who doeth all these things" - Acts chapter fifteen verse seventeen.

I suppose we all believe our nationality is the superior race deep down on some level. American's certainly do. Patriotic pride is not overtly bad; until

spiritual pride becomes mingled with patriotic pride. When that happens, it's the worst thing on the face of the earth. Interestingly, our American ancestry is a mix from all over the world. It's amusing how easily we can ignore that which contradicts us. God didn't give the United States the Word of God because we are superior and nice people. American ancestry was anything but superior and nice. One could make a case that we went up that hill presumptuously; but I digress, sort of. See, it is not to them that willeth or worketh, but it is God who showeth mercy....

27 Esaias also crieth concerning Israel, Though the number of the children of Israel be as the sand of the sea, a remnant shall be saved:

28 For he will finish the work, and cut it short in righteousness: because a short work will the Lord make upon the earth.

~ That's a quote from Isaiah chapter ten verse twenty-two. Only a remnant of Israel will be saved in the Great Tribulation period. If you want the percentages, consider this: there are approximately fifteen million Jews living in Israel today; and we know that in the Great Tribulation period only one hundred forty-four thousand will be sealed. That's a pretty small percentage if you ask me. Others will be saved during that time, but this number will be His only witnesses. That is the remnant, and it has always been a remnant – and the number has always been very small. I'm not sure why God did it that way. What I do know is: it is God that showeth mercy to whom He will. The very fact that God even saves *ONE* of us reveals His mercy. None of us deserve anything except to be cast into outer darkness....

29 And as Esaias said before, Except the Lord of Sabaoth had left us a seed, we had been as Sodoma, and been made like unto Gomorrha.

~ That's Isaiah chapter one verse nine; and it is another sobering and startling statement. It's also a fitting climax for the definition of the sovereignty of God. Even the elect nation would be like Sodom and Gomorrah if God had not intervened by His sovereign mercy and recovered a remnant. We're not good people, friends. These past several reports should be an eye-opening indictment to proud religiosity, prideful church membership and anything that isn't one hundred percent for the Lord Jesus

Christ. Only the *mercy of God* keeps any of us believers from ever going to hell chained to the most debauched man and woman on earth....

30 What shall we say then? That the Gentiles, which followed not after righteousness, have attained to righteousness, even the righteousness which is of faith.

31 But Israel, which followed after the law of righteousness, hath not attained to the law of righteousness.

~ That is a damning and terrifying statement in verse thirty-one. The Jews attempted to produce a righteousness of their own through the Mosaic System. They failed miserably; we have factual historical records – and consider the nation Israel today. Religious people are the most difficult to try to teach anything to; be it the Word of God or historical facts. They – let’s call them church members – have a laboriously preconceived notion of just about everything religious; and they’re usually woefully wrong. They always believe they are good enough to be saved. Well, friends, you’ll never be able to reconcile the sovereignty of God with the responsibility of man to God. What we *can* reconcile is that if we are going to be saved, it is going to be *OUR* responsibility to open the door when Christ knocks. Whosoever will may come is the legitimate and honest invitation – it is an open and sincere invitation being extended to you *right now*; and those who come to Christ will He in no wise cast out. He is our Blessed Hope.

No one will use the excuse before God that they didn’t come to Christ because they weren’t the elect, either. We are going to make a decision for or against the Lord in this life whether we like it or not. At the same time – no one was chosen who didn’t run. Many were called. You have to run for the office if you want to be elected. If you want to be saved, and you accept Christ as your Savior, then you are the elect; if you don’t want to be saved, and continue to reject Jesus after hearing the Gospel, then you aren’t the elect. It’s your choice. God is doing this thing called life *His way*; and He is going to work according to *His will* – and His facts and will are always going to be right and true; there is no unrighteousness with God.

Do you feel as if things are bad in the world today? Do our leaders seem intent on destroying us? Well, do you trust God with your life? God hasn't made any mistakes, and never will. God is righteous and good, friends; and He isn't asking for your vote – He's already in office. God is not responsible to anyone except Himself. God isn't even responsible to the elect. God is only responsible to His character; so whatever He does is right. Their "*righteousness of faith*" in verse thirty is because God worked it, and God willed it – and *no other reason*! The Old Testament prophets had prophesied it, and Isaiah made it more than clear that Gentiles were to be saved....

32 Wherefore? Because they sought it not by faith, but as it were by the works of the law. For they stumbled at that stumblingstone;

33 As it is written, Behold, I lay in Sion a stumblingstone and rock of offence: and whosoever believeth on him shall not be ashamed.

X

1 Brethren, my heart's desire and prayer to God for Israel is, that they might be saved.

2 For I bear them record that they have a zeal of God, but not according to knowledge.

3 For they being ignorant of God's righteousness, and going about to establish their own righteousness, have not submitted themselves unto the righteousness of God.

4 For Christ is the end of the law for righteousness to every one that believeth.

5 For Moses describeth the righteousness which is of the law, That the man which doeth those things shall live by them.

6 But the righteousness which is of faith speaketh on this wise, Say not in thine heart, Who shall ascend into heaven? (that is, to bring Christ down from above)

~ Chapter ten speaks of the *present* state of Israel; which is: *LOST!* Israel is as lost today as any Gentile is. Christ is the end of the law for righteousness. In verse thirty of the last chapter, we turned from the sovereignty of God to the responsibility of man; and, friends, man is responsible to God:

Luke 19: 43 *For the days shall come upon thee, that thine enemies shall cast a trench about thee, and compass thee round, and keep thee in on every side, 44 And shall lay thee even with the ground, and thy children within thee; and they shall not leave in thee one stone upon another; because thou knewest not the time of thy visitation ~*

That's the condition of Israel today – they're surrounded by Arab nations who want to wipe them off the face of the map so badly they are consumed with plotting it. Israel blames the Arab, the Russian – everybody else – but they should blame God Who says the reason they are in the state they are in today – and cannot have peace and safety – is because they did not recognize their time of salvation – or visitation. So, Paul's heart's desire and prayer in this passage is that all Israel might turn to Christ and be saved.

There are three great statements to be drawn from the word "*visitation.*" Bengal said, "*.... Israel, with all they possess including religion, needs to be saved!*" Israel has a form of Godliness, but they have no righteousness. To deny Christ is to deny the power of God. That's the state of Israel today. I estimate that a minimum of eighty percent of all church members are not saved – and that is likely a highly conservative estimate. For those people, church is nothing but a religious club. They are in total rebellion against God because they refuse to accept the righteousness God offers in Christ. Many people are deeply religious, yet completely lost! Israel had a religion that had been given to them by God Himself. Israel has more revelation than *ANY* other nation has ever had. Even so, they're lost!

The second remarkable statement is: Israel was savable! Paul would never have prayed for them if they had been altogether reprobate. Thank God they weren't that. They were savable; just like the jungle dwelling heathen, the porn-star and the mafia man in contemporary society are all savable today. China was a fully established civilization at this time; so, why didn't any missionaries go over there? Well, they likely didn't go to the orient at this time because *THESE* people were savable!

Third, Israel is on the same spiritual plane as Gentiles, and need to be evangelized as any other people who are without Christ. There is no difference whatsoever today. *ALL* have sinned – *ALL* come short of the glory of God. The idea of a superior race or inferior race dissolves at the foot of the cross. We are a hell-doomed bunch of sinners; and God is righteous when He reminds us of that. Don't blame me – I didn't write the Bible – this is what God is saying to *YOU* right *NOW*! In fact, God has placed this on a marquis in neon lights so we wouldn't miss it!

When Paul said the Gospel goes to the Jew first, that simply means chronologically; because that's the way it happened. For the first several years in Jerusalem, and throughout Israel, the early church was one hundred percent Jewish. No Gentiles were saved until much later in church history. Some believe we ought to go first to the Jew today; but I don't necessarily agree. However, I will say this: you better not leave them out. They are in the plan and purpose of God, and they should have the Gospel, too!

Dr. Reinhold Nebar said in Time Magazine on April 21, 1958, "... *do not try to convert Jews. The Jew may find God more readily in their own faith than in Christianity!*" Then, he goes on to maintain his viewpoint by saying, "... *particularly due to the guilt they are likely to feel if they become Christians!*" What the good doctor failed to realize is that turning to Christ is when we get *RID* of said guilt! All people should have the Gospel, of course. God is prepared to show mercy today to anyone who will believe.

There are many who have a zeal for God, but who are totally and completely ignorant of the Word of God. For them, Monday night means football, Tuesday night is taco night, Wednesday is for relaxing in the

middle of a busy week, Thursday is for baseball, Friday is for fishing, Saturday is for golf, and Sunday is for politics and protesting in the name of Jesus! They sure won't attend an hour of Bible study; and they'll proudly tell you why they aren't interested. They have a type of zeal – to be sure; but it is uneducated and ignorant – and, unfortunately, they believe they do everything in the name of Jesus, you know? They have an empty and meaningless religion — one with no Christ. Have you accepted the righteousness God offers? There is no other Name under Heaven besides Christ by which man can be saved.

One must be perfect to go to Heaven, friends; but you and I aren't perfect. The only reason I'm going to Heaven is because Jesus died and was resurrected. The only reason you are going to Heaven is because Christ was raised for our justification. Christ is perfect, and we're going to Heaven because He took our place in death. Do you have Christ today as your Savior? I don't want to minimize church membership, but the average church is as dead spiritually as a Pterodactyl. In fact, dinosaur bones are likely more spiritual, because they are occasionally examined. The church doesn't even look at the Bible anymore. Most Christians have the enthusiasm of standing in line for a driver license. We better make sure we have Christ Jesus living in our hearts today, friends. Wouldn't it be nice if we could get rid of everything and just be held by Christ?

Verse three is unequivocally true of the average church member. The lack of spiritual judgment and discernment I see today is beyond alarming, dear readers – it's profoundly shameful. Dr. Griffith Thomas said, *".... is it not marvelous that people can read the Bible and all the while fail to see its essential teaching and its personal application to them selves? There is scarcely anything more surprising and saddening than the presence of intellectual knowledge of God's Word with an utter failure to appreciate its spiritual meaning and force."* Some people carry a Bible so big under their arm it makes them lean to one side. They never grow an inch in grace and knowledge. They never come to an understanding of what it means to be saved.

Christ didn't come to patch up old clothes, friends. Christ came to give us a new garment – the robe of His righteousness. The law was given to bring

men to Christ – not to save them! Paul said, “... *the law is our schoolmaster.*” The law is a servant that takes us by the hand and brings us to the cross of Christ whereby we might be justified by faith. We all need to be saved. The Mosaic System of Law ended when Christ died on the cross. Paul said, “... *Christ is become of no effect unto you, whosoever of you are justified by the law; ye are fallen from grace*” - Galatians chapter five verse four. The law is no more the rule of life to anyone and everyone who believes! The freeness and universality of salvation is made manifest in that last sentence. Have you accepted it? Even if you could attain righteousness in the law, it wouldn't be His righteousness – it would still be your own – leaving you back at square one with filthy rags.

The righteousness Paul speaks of when quoting Deuteronomy is available to us today – right where you are sitting and reading this report. I hope you'll ask God for His righteousness in prayer right now – even if you think you are already saved. God's mercy is wonderful! Alright, our Spiritual Safari breaks off in this leg of the expedition where we will continue to examine the parenthetical *PRESENT* state of Israel from chapter nine of Romans in our next report ~