

[Romans 10:7 – 11:10]

~ Our Spiritual Safari expedition through the entire Word of God continues to consider the *PRESENT* state of the nation Israel in the plan and purpose of God in chapter ten of the epistle to the Romans. Chapter nine presented the *PAST* state of Israel. Chapter eleven will bring the *FUTURE* of Israel according to God's plan. To begin this lesson, we're going to examine some totally misunderstood verses in Romans. Verse eight is a quote from Deuteronomy; and verse nine is abused every time I see it cited....

X

7 Or, Who shall descend into the deep? (that is, to bring up Christ again from the dead)

8 But what saith the Scriptures? The word is nigh thee, even in thy mouth, and in thy heart: that is, the word of faith, which we preach;

9 That if thou shalt confess with thy mouth the Lord Jesus, and shalt believe in thine heart that God hath raised him from the dead, thou shalt be saved.

10 For with the heart man believeth unto righteousness; and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation.

~ This passage does *NOT* speak of a public meeting, or going forward in an altar call, as some would have it. Many people go forward every Sunday who aren't saved. What this means is that a man needs to bring into agreement his confession and his life. When the mouth and the heart are not in the harmony of word and deed, you have one dangerous individual on your hands. See, with the *HEART* – which speaks of our total personality and being – we believe or don't believe. Some people merely give lip service to God. It's all meaningless to them because their hearts are far from Him.

If you make a public confession, you better make sure your heart is right with the Lord and in agreement with your mouth. Most people are chanting idle words from disconnected passages of Scripture who have no clue what it all means. When there is profession without faith, that theology is self-deception and rank hypocrisy. If there is faith without profession, it is likely cowardice. Let's be clear: faith without works is dead! If you're going to work your mouth, make sure you have faith in your heart to back it up. The resurrection is the heart of the Gospel of the Lord Jesus Christ according to the Word of God. He was delivered for our offenses and raised for our justification....

11 For the scripture saith, Whosoever believeth on him shall not be ashamed.

~ Ashamed can also mean confounded. We have a "by faith" righteousness, which is also taught in the Old Testament; and this passage shows the universal character of salvation. The most important word in verse eleven is "whosoever" – they are the ones that will never be confounded. There is no distinction between the Jew and Greek today. *ALL* have sinned and *ALL* come short of the glory of God! Anyone to be saved must come the same way as everyone else. No man cometh unto the Father but by Me, saith the Lord Jesus. Your education, race and income mean nothing to the Lord. The rituals and laws of the Old Testament won't quite get you there, either. Faith in Christ Jesus and His mercy are what is important; because there is no other way....

12 For there is no difference between the Jew and the Greek: for the same Lord over all is rich unto all that call upon him.

13 For whosoever shall call upon the name of the Lord shall be saved.

~ That is certainly another remarkable statement. Again, Paul quotes from the Old Testament. When Paul references Scripture, he is speaking of the Old Testament. That's the only Scripture he had. We have eight quotations from the Old Testament in this chapter alone. There are thirty total Old Testament references in chapters nine, ten and eleven. Both Jew and Gentile are to call on the Lord; *NOT* do something for salvation. To call

upon the Lord means to believe, trust and obey Christ. Do you love Him with all your heart, friends? If you do, you'll obey Him....

14 How then shall they call on him in whom they have not believed? and how shall they believe in him of whom they have not heard? and how shall they hear without a preacher?

15 And how shall they preach, except they be sent? as it is written, How beautiful are the feet of them that preach the gospel of peace, and bring glad tidings of good things!

~ It is necessary to understand Paul's position here – his own people hated him as an apostle. They had applauded Saul of Tarsus the Pharisee who murdered and imprisoned Christians; but they hate this man. All Paul can attempt to do is explain the logic of his position. And they rejected Paul and his claim – and any of the apostles who agreed with him and proclaimed a Gospel that omitted the Mosaic System of Levitical Law. That mindset degenerated into modern Judaism. Paul tells them that those who have a message from God must also have credentials from God.

Paul began this epistle by making the claim that he was a 'called' apostle of Jesus Christ. Preachers must be sent in order that people might learn and believe, my friends. Otherwise, many people would never know how to believe and call upon God; and Paul hangs his entire premise in this epistle upon believing. That's exactly what necessitated his ministry! Frankly, I feel this little rinky-dink so-called safari is important; I plan to spend the rest of my life practicing and perfecting it. I preach at all hours of the day and night. And Paul says those who preach have beautiful feet. Well, I'm looking at my bare feet as I write this report, and my feet are not beautiful, friends. Feet aren't the utmost object of beauty – and especially not mine....

16 But they have not all obeyed the gospel. For Esaias saith, Lord, who hath believed our report?

~ There are roughly eight billion people in the world as I write this report. The number of readers I have, well, it isn't many. I always ask what Isaiah asked: who *HAS* believed our report? Well, this safari isn't much; but, even

so, it has the potential to go down the road, go into the city, get on the expressway, go through the airport, traverse the expansive masses of sea and water and reach into homes and inner recesses around the globe with the Gospel. I'm not sure I could ask for much more than that....

17 So then faith cometh by hearing, and hearing by the word of God.

~ Alright, we come back to this tenet of truth again, and I am sure I sound like a stuck recording to most of you; but, philosophy, psychology and political nostrums will do absolutely nothing to help you with the problems in your life. Only the preaching of the Word of God can help us. It doesn't matter what I think or what you think – what matters is what the Word of God says. If the Bible is the Word of God, then nothing else matters. If the Bible is *NOT* the Word of God, nothing matters. Until we hear the Word of God, we cannot be saved, friends....

18 But I say, Have they not heard? Yes verily, their sound went into all the earth, and their words unto the ends of the world.

~ Paul had no idea of the technology that was ahead for mankind. Of course, we have radio, TV and internet — and the message of the salvation that the Lord Jesus Christ offers has definitely gone out to the world today. This forum on which I teach is certainly a marvelous way of getting the Word of God out. No one has to buy these reports; I just give them away. I am amazed that anyone does read, quite frankly. Well, people do read the Spiritual Safari; but only because God will bless His Word – not because it's "good" or interesting; there isn't a literary award in my future, that's for sure....

19 But I say, Did not Israel know? First Moses saith, I will provoke you to jealousy by them that are no people, and by a foolish nation I will anger you.

20 But Esaias is very bold, and saith, I was found of them that sought me not; I was made manifest unto them that asked not after me.

21 But to Israel he saith, All day long I have stretched forth my hands unto a disobedient and gainsaying people.

~ That's a quotation from Deuteronomy chapter thirty-two verse twenty-one. Today, God is calling out a people to His Name from amongst Gentiles. We'll develop that in the next chapter. God has His arms outstretched to all of us disobedient people today. Consider how tiring it is just to hold your arms outstretched – try it and see how long you can hold them out. That's one of the most tiring things a person can possibly do! Remember, Moses was out there praying for Israel during the battle and Aaron had to prop up his hands! Moses was worn out from holding them up to God for Israel. I doubt anyone realizes how gracious God has been to us. I'm sure it was with a broken heart that Steven said in his dying breath, "... *ye are uncircumcised in heart; ye do always resist the Holy Spirit!*"

This isn't confined to Israel, though. God is holding out His hands to a gainsaying world. I am amazed at the patience and kindness of God to people here on earth. I don't want to be irreverent, but I'll be honest with you – because I always am honest with you dear readers – if I were God, I would make some very definite and noticeable changes. I would move in on some people's lives and it wouldn't be pretty. Well, God is just holding out His hands; readily forgiving and accepting a hateful, stupid, filthy and perverted world, when and *if* they will sincerely turn from their evil to Him....

XI

1 I say then, Hath God cast away his people? God forbid. For I also am an Israelite, of the seed of Abraham, of the tribe of Benjamin.

~ Chapter eleven brings us into the *FUTURE* of Israel according to God's plan, purpose and program for them. "*His people*" are Israel; and the remnant to be specific. I'm not sure how the a-millennialism crowd could miss this. A remnant has been gathered now for two thousand years and God is going to redeem them as a nation someday as His witness to the world. In chapter nine, we saw God's past dealings with Israel; and in

chapter ten, we saw God's present dealings with Israel. Presently, God is saving those who will come to Him through Christ.

Regarding the future of Israel, God says they will be re-gathered as a nation and redeemed; that is the plan – while the remnant of Israel today is finding salvation. God has *NOT* cast away His people as a nation. The fact that His present purpose of calling out a people, and His future purpose of re-gathering differ, in no way means God is finished with them in this world. Paul is talking about those who are descended from Abraham, also. Paul was from the tribe of Benjamin, which was one of only two tribes that had not defected when the kingdom divided. There simply was *NO WAY* Paul could have been called a disloyal Israelite....

2 God hath not cast away his people which he foreknew. Wot ye not what the scripture saith of Elias? how he maketh intercession to God against Israel, saying,

3 Lord, they have killed thy prophets, and digged down thine altars; and I am left alone, and they seek my life.

~ Here we have the foreknowledge of God again. I love the way Paul uses Elijah as the illustration. Elijah stood *ALONE* for God; as we fully developed on this safari. I admire that. Noah is another one who stood *ALONE* for God. Here, however, we are reminded that Elijah went to the Lord and complained about it bitterly. That's when God told Elijah there were seven thousand who had not bowed their knee to Baal. God has always had a remnant; and those are the people He has chosen. The remnant today are those who are in the church and of Abraham by faith. They are those who have accepted the Lord Jesus Christ as their Savior. Remember, we have already seen "... *not all Israel is Israel!*" ~

4 But what saith the answer of God unto him? I have reserved to myself seven thousand men, who have not bowed the knee to the image of Baal.

5 Even so then at this present time also there is a remnant according to the election of grace.

6 And if by grace, then is it no more of works: otherwise grace is no more grace. But if it be of works, then is it no more grace: otherwise work is no more work.

7 What then? Israel hath not obtained that which he seeketh for; but the election hath obtained it, and the rest were blinded

8 (According as it is written, God hath given them the spirit of slumber, eyes that they should not see, and ears that they should not hear) unto this day.

9 And David saith, Let their table be made a snare, and a trap, and a stumblingblock, and a recompence unto them:

10 Let their eyes be darkened, that they may not see, and bow down their back alway.

~ Grace and works are two mutually exclusive systems and are diametrically opposed to each other. The remnant is not saved by works nor by merit – they are saved by the grace of God. From the day Paul wrote this, right down to the present – the future program for Israel is *‘those who will accept the grace of God may do so.’* So, what about the others who don’t accept? – The remainder of Israel is hardened in verse seven through ten. They were hardened because they failed – they did *NOT* fail because they were hardened. Many people get their cart before the horse; and some have their horse *IN* their carts! You won’t get anywhere like that.

So, did Israel not come because they were blinded? No, they were more exposed to the Gospel than any other people had ever been. God held out His arms all day long to His chosen people. It takes great patience to have love for most of us humans. They were blinded because they would not accept the light! People in this condition are almost impossible – if not impossible – to reach with the Gospel message of the Lord Jesus Christ. That is critical to understand.

In verse nine, *‘the table’* has reference to feasting; which is representative of material prosperity. The children of Israel had many great feasts in which

they were, actually, the guests of God. The pagans invite God in for dinner – God invited Israel in for dinner. Unfortunately, they were feasting in a conceded confidence that was entirely pagan and wrong. Their carnal security deceived them as to their true spiritual ruin. They trusted in their food without any trust in God. And that is the current condition of multitudes of church members today.

God gives light; but if men are blind, they won't see! The light reveals the blindness of so many people today. Multitudes of otherwise highly intelligent people cannot grasp what the Bible is about. Of the fifteen million Jewish people in the land today, among whom are some of the most brilliant minds on earth, only a thin fraction has any knowledge of the Hebrew Scriptures concerning Messiah. In Israel today, roughly twenty percent of the four million who have returned profess any religion. Out of those, it is estimated that about seven thousand are born again believers. Honestly, I am amazed at how many seemingly smart people just don't understand what the Word of God and the Lord Jesus Christ are all about ~