

The Footsteps of Faith Series

Lesson # 16 “Righteousness by faith does not contradict the promise God made to Israel” Part I

Romans 9:1-33

Scripture: Romans 1:16-17

“For I am not ashamed of the gospel, for it is the power of God for salvation to everyone who believes, to the Jew first and also to the Greek. 17 For in it the righteousness of God is revealed from faith to faith; as it is written, “BUT THE RIGHTEOUS man SHALL LIVE BY FAITH.”

Introduction:

When I was little I really wanted a bicycle. All the neighborhood buddies had one. I remember one of them getting a new bicycle and he told me he would sell me his old junky one for \$5 bucks. I ran home all excited only to find we were too poor to spend 5 dollars.

Some years later I will never forget when I got my own bicycle. It was black with big orange fenders and looked like a motorcycle without the motor. Man was I cool. I set up ramps and jumped over every object known to man. It was great....

Until that one day I got in really bad trouble. I can't remember but I am sure it wasn't my fault...The punishment was my bicycle got taken away. Man I have to tell you that that hurt. How could you take away a man's transportation and expect him to survive?

I couldn't imagine things getting any worse till I got home from school one day to find my sister riding my bicycle. It was nothing short of an abomination. Someone else riding my bike really set me off.

Have you ever experienced something like this?

Transitional Statement:

Church, if we are not responsible with the blessings of God, He might take them away and give them to someone else. God gives us these blessings to promote His purposes and if we don't step up to the plate somebody else might be riding our spiritual bike.

Lesson:

I. Here at the beginning truth is established.

Romans 9:1

“I am telling the truth in Christ, I am not lying, my conscience testifies with me in the Holy Spirit,”

A. *“I am telling the truth in Christ, I am not lying”*

1. Has Paul talked about this before?
 - a. This is at least the third time. See Romans 3:7-8 ; 6:1
2. So there were people who were questioning if not flat out denying apostolic authority.
3. Not just questioning but actively working against it.

B. So it is important for Paul to establish truth

1. Not just to protect his integrity and show he is right
2. But because truth is the only platform for a relationship with God.
 - a. You see, God must be worshiped in truth John 4:24
 - b. And truth is the avenue of freedom John 8:32

C. *“...my conscience testifies with me in the Holy Spirit,”*

1. So Paul reminds them that his words are facts.
 - a. Because they have already been confirmed by two witnesses.
 - b. At the mouth of two or three witnesses right?

-Matt 18:16 : Deut 19:15

2. The two witnesses in this case are the Apostle Paul and the Holy Spirit.
 - a. To which the Holy Spirit has clearly been seen working in Paul in miraculous ways.
 - b. Not to mention Jesus Himself on the road to Damascus Acts 9

D. It is really the whole apostolic authority that is being questioned here.

1. The Apostles were divine messengers of Christ upon this earth and commissioned by Him to carry out His will in the beginning of the church and the writing of scriptures.
 - a. Apostles were part of the foundation of God’s house Eph 2:20

2. And the Jews, who rejected Christ and ultimately killed Him, were against the apostles with the same fervor of heart.
3. And at every turn they were trying to under mind them.

E. And it seems today that Satan still tries to under mind the apostles writings.

II. God's plan included Israel but they ultimately rejected it !

Romans 9:2-5

"that I have great sorrow and unceasing grief in my heart. 3 For I could wish 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"

A. Maybe another part of the ploy against Paul was that he really didn't care about Israel.

1. But this was far from the truth.
2. This caused "*unceasing grief*" in Paul's heart
 - a. Because Paul too was an Israelite.
 - b. It is the hardest thing in the world to see family pulling away from God.
3. And Paul somehow wishes that he could take their collective place so they wouldn't be lost.
 - a. Step in front of the bus for them so-to-speak
 - a. Sound like any one else in scripture?Jesus Himself right !

B. Another false ploy against Paul was that he was saying that Israel was not important to God's plan.

1. And nothing could be further from the truth.
 - a. After all they were His people Exodus 19:5
 - b. He had cared for them and brought them along for thousands of years.

2. Paul say to Israel belonged:

- a. The adoption as sons
- b. The Glory
- c. The Covenants
- d. The giving of the Law
- e. The Temple service
- f. The Promises
- g. The Fathers

h. **And to Israel was even entrusted the Christ !**

B. God is not ditching Israel and leaving them stranded in the desert per say.

1. But it is Israel that is rejecting God's plan. John 1:11

III. Just because they rejected Christ doesn't mean that God's Word failed.

Romans 9:6a

"But it is not as though the word of God has failed..."

A. Here false thinking is still in view, the argument might be that if Jesus was God's intention... that Israel would be united in belief about it.

1. If the majority doesn't believe it, it must not be true

B. But with all the controversy surrounding Jesus, God's plan must have failed.

1. And we know God's plans don't fail....

2. Therefore Jesus must not be the Christ

C. But here the idea is that just because Israel won't accept God's plan doesn't mean His plan failed.

1. Just the opposite is true...the word of God will succeed with or without physical Israel.

D. It might be healthy to note here that if people, God has appointed for a task concerning His will, refuse to step forward He will appoint someone else.

1. His will,... will be done !

IV. The Real Israel of God come from faith in the promises of God.

Romans 9:6b-9

"...For they are not all Israel who are descended from Israel; 7 nor are they all children because they are Abraham's descendants, but: "THROUGH ISAAC YOUR

DESCENDANTS WILL BE NAMED." 8 That is, it is not the children of the flesh who are children of God, but the children of the promise are regarded as descendants. 9 For this is the word of promise: "AT THIS TIME I WILL COME, AND SARAH SHALL HAVE A SON."

- A. How could you be born an Israelite and not be one?
 - 1. Because Israel here represents God's chosen people
 - 2. The real Israel are not some lineage, nationality or geographic location on the map.
- B. The real Israel are folks born in connection with the promises of God.
 - 1. Just like Ishmael, born of Sarah's Egyptian hand maiden Hagar, was not included in the blessing or inheritance of Abraham because he was a product of their own efforts.
 - 2. But Isaac was a child of a promise by God, accepted in faith by Abraham.
- C. Real Israelites, come about as a result of faith in the Promises of God.
- D. So there is a Israel that is not real and one that is.

V. The fact is that God chooses His people according to His purpose so that His name might be proclaimed to the whole earth.

Romans 9:10-18

10 And not only this, but there was Rebekah also, when she had conceived twins by one man, our father Isaac; 11 for though the twins were not yet born and had not done anything good or bad, so that God's purpose according to His choice would stand, not because of works but because of Him who calls, 12 it was said to her, "THE OLDER WILL SERVE THE YOUNGER." 13 Just as it is written, "JACOB I LOVED, BUT ESAU I HATED." 14 What shall we say then? There is no injustice with God, is there? May it never be!

- A. First, He mentions Jacob and Esau
 - a. He says before Jacob and Esau were even born I chose Jacob in connection with my will and purpose.
 - God chose Esau to serve Jacob
 - "JACOB I LOVED, BUT ESAU I HATED."
 - b. And God's choice wasn't based on either of the actions, because they hadn't even been born yet, but on a foreknowledge of who they were Romans 8:29
- B. God Knew that Jacob was the right one to be the father of the house of Israel.

C. 14 *"There is no injustice with God, is there? May it never be!"*

*i.e. God appoints the right man for the job....

-And one might also understand that God removes the wrong man from time to time.

15 For He says to Moses, " I WILL HAVE MERCY ON WHOM I HAVE MERCY, AND I WILL HAVE COMPASSION ON WHOM I HAVE COMPASSION." 16 So then it does not depend on the man who wills or the man who runs, but on God who has mercy.

A. Then we see Moses on Mount Sinai pleading with God to forgive Israel for the golden calf sin and yet God decides to punish Israel anyway Ex 32:34-35

B. Then God says look:

"I WILL HAVE MERCY ON WHOM I HAVE MERCY, AND I WILL HAVE COMPASSION ON WHOM I HAVE COMPASSION"

C. This is to say that God knows the heart and has the right to accept or reject whoever He wants to according to His purposes.

1. And His judgments are just and right !

D. Therefore our wants and desires do not change the overall plan or will of God.

1. We have no say in the direction of God's will

2. We just must yield to it !

17 For the Scripture says to Pharaoh, "FOR THIS VERY PURPOSE I RAISED YOU UP, TO DEMONSTRATE MY POWER IN YOU, AND THAT MY NAME MIGHT BE PROCLAIMED THROUGHOUT THE WHOLE EARTH." 18 So then He has mercy on whom He desires, and He hardens whom He desires.

A. And Finally Pharaoh is brought up.

1. God raised Pharaoh up for the express purpose of demonstrating His power and having His name proclaimed throughout the earth.

b. You see God in His foreknowledge of Pharaoh's heart, positioned him to rise to great power so that God could demonstrate what real power was in Pharaohs defeat.

B. The ultimate point in these passages perhaps is seen in the simple phrase "that my name might be proclaimed throughout the whole earth."

1. The proclamation of God's name takes central stage

2. And it is for the whole earth.....not just the Jews.

- D. The fact is that God is willing to work any single person or group of people to accomplish His will. Note these three expressions again in verses 10-18:

so that God's purpose according to His choice would stand

So then it does not depend on the man who wills or the man who runs, but on God who has mercy.

"FOR THIS VERY PURPOSE I RAISED YOU UP, TO DEMONSTRATE MY POWER IN YOU, AND THAT MY NAME MIGHT BE PROCLAIMED THROUGHOUT THE WHOLE EARTH."

*God is sovereign and His choices are right without explanation.

VI. God's patients with Israel is not an endorsement of what they are doing.

Romans 9:19-23

19 You will say to me then, "Why does He still find fault? For who resists His will?" 20 On the contrary, who are you, O man, who answers back to God? The thing molded will not say to the molder, "Why did you make me like this," will it? 21 Or does not the potter have a right over the clay, to make from the same lump one vessel for honorable use and another for common use? 22 What if God, although willing to demonstrate His wrath and to make His power known, endured with much patience vessels of wrath prepared for destruction? 23 And He did so to make known the riches of His glory upon vessels of mercy, which He prepared beforehand for glory,

- A. The question here seems to be, how can God find fault with us if He has predetermined our steps.
1. Church, just because God knows the choices we will make doesn't mean that He appointed them to us. ...see Romans 8:29
 2. God allows each of us to chose to obey Him or not.
- B. And His patience should be understood for what it is and not be viewed as a license to continue down the same path.
- C. In the past God had struck down people that were against His plan, so Israel might be inclined to think everything is ok when it is not.
- * God's patients is ultimately a display of the riches of His glory upon those that are obedient.

VII. The truth is that Israel was unfaithful to God.

Romans 9:24-26

24 even us, whom He also called, not from among Jews only, but also from among Gentiles. 25 As He says also in Hosea,
" I WILL CALL THOSE WHO WERE NOT MY PEOPLE, 'MY PEOPLE,'
AND HER WHO WAS NOT BELOVED, 'BELOVED.'"

26 "AND IT SHALL BE THAT IN THE PLACE WHERE IT WAS SAID TO THEM,
'YOU ARE NOT MY PEOPLE,'
THERE THEY SHALL BE CALLED SONS OF THE LIVING GOD."

- A. Hosea ended up accepting children that weren't even his
- B. Why?
 1. Because His wife was adulterous.
 2. So was Israel Jer 2:20
 3. Gentiles will be called my people

VIII. The Prophets even said most of Israel would be destroyed

Romans 9:27-28

27 Isaiah cries out concerning Israel, "THOUGH THE NUMBER OF THE SONS OF ISRAEL BE LIKE THE SAND OF THE SEA, IT IS THE REMNANT THAT WILL BE SAVED; 28 FOR THE LORD WILL EXECUTE HIS WORD ON THE EARTH, THOROUGHLY AND QUICKLY."

- A. If your looking for security in the majority opinion
- B. It is not the vast majority of Israel, but a small remnant that will be saved.
- C. "Broad is the gate that leads to destruction and many shall enter through it
Matt 7:13-14

IX. Israel would have been completely destroyed if not for the seed of Christ.

Romans 9:29

29 And just as Isaiah foretold,
"UNLESS THE LORD OF SABAOTH HAD LEFT TO US A POSTERITY,
WE WOULD HAVE BECOME LIKE SODOM, AND WOULD HAVE RESEMBLED GOMORRAH."

- A. Israel was desolate
- B. Spiritually famished
- C. Withered almost to the point of extinction
- D. But a seed was left.....Christ Gal 3:16

Conclusion:

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 DISAPPOINTED."

Jesus demanded faithful obediencethe law just demanded obedience