

# The Footsteps of Faith Series

## Lesson # 17 "Righteousness by faith does not contradict the promise God made to Israel" Part II

**"It is Israel's fault that she is lost"**

Romans 10:1-21

**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: ...The Zax**

One day, making tracks  
In the prairie of Prax,  
Came a North-Going Zax  
And a South-Going Zax.

And it happened that both of them came to a place  
Where they bumped. There they stood.  
Foot to foot. Face to face.

"Look here, now!" the North-Going Zax said, "I say!  
You are blocking my path. You are right in my way.  
I'm a North-Going Zax and I always go north.  
Get out of my way, now, and let me go forth!"

"Who's in whose way?" snapped the South-Going Zax.  
"I always go south, making south-going tracks.  
So you're in MY way! And I ask you to move  
And let me go south in my south-going groove."

Then the North-Going Zax puffed his chest up with pride.  
"I never," he said, "take a step to one side.  
And I'll prove to you that I won't change my ways  
If I have to keep standing here fifty-nine days!"

"And I'll prove to YOU," yelled the South-Going Zax,  
"That I can stand here in the prairie of Prax  
For fifty-nine years! For I live by a rule  
That I learned as a boy back in South-Going School.  
Never budge! That's my rule. Never budge in the least!  
Not an inch to the west! Not an inch to the east!  
I'll stay here, not budging! I can and I will  
If it makes you and me and the whole world stand still!"  
Well...  
Of course the world didn't stand still. The world grew.  
In a couple of years, the new highway came through  
And they built it right over those two stubborn Zax  
And left them there, standing un-budged in their tracks.

**Transitional Statement:**

Church, Israel was kind of like a Zaxs, except they were having a standoff with God. Demanding their way only as they had understood it. We might think that it would be totally ridiculous to have a standoff with God, but in reality we do the same thing every time we refuse to step up the plate that God has laid before us.

## **Lesson:**

### **I. God Desires for Israel to be saved.**

Romans 10:1

*1 Brethren, my heart's desire and my prayer to God for them is for their salvation.*

A. Certainly, Paul desires for Israel to be saved

1. He is taking this thing before God in his prayers
2. He has given a lot of time and effort toward that end.
3. Even though some of them are even trying to kill him from time to time.

B. But remember that Paul is inspired here to write the words of God. 2 Tim 3:16

1. God Himself wants Israel and everyone else for that matter to be saved

1 Timothy 2:4 "...who desires all men to be saved and to come to the knowledge of the truth."

C. God is not abandoning Israel but loves her deeply.

### **II. Israel has a blind zeal for God**

Romans 10:2

*2 For I testify about them that they have a zeal for God, but not in accordance with knowledge.*

A. Israel has a zeal for God.

1. That is to say that they:

- Are embracing
- Pursuing
- And even defending of God

2. Which zeal for God is a good thing and somewhat lacking in our world today.

B. But the point here that Israel's zeal has no foundation.

1. It is not accordance with knowledge.
2. In-other-words it is not informed.
  - blind & without direction.
3. Ultimately pointless

### III. Israel sought to establish their own righteousness

Romans 10:3-4

*3 For not knowing about God's righteousness and seeking to establish their own, they did not subject themselves to the righteousness of God. 4 For Christ is the end of the law for righteousness to everyone who believes.*

#### A. Israel didn't understand God's righteousness

##### 1. Why?

- a. For the most part they closed their minds to anything but traditions, Paul talks about this of himself in Judaism Gal 1:14
- b. And most of the time they wouldn't wait on the God and put their full trust in Him.

-Kind of like King Saul not willing to wait for Samuel as directed made his own offering to God. 1 Samuel 13:2-15

#### B. So they sought to establish their own righteousness

1. They set out to shape what is acceptable to God according to their own thinking.
  - a. Have you seen this in our world today...or have you even tried to mold God after your image?
2. By so doing Israel did not subject themselves to the righteousness of God.
  - a. And when your not in subjection to God....your in the wrong place.
3. A point worth noting is that Righteousness doesn't include a blend of our efforts and God's expectations...
  - a. Righteousness begins with God's expectation only asks for us to trust and obey.

### IV. Israel's efforts toward righteousness in the Law of Moses, would only bring them condemnation.

Romans 10:5-8

*5 For Moses writes that the man who practices the righteousness which is based on law shall live by that righteousness. 6 But the righteousness based on faith speaks as follows: "DO NOT SAY IN YOUR HEART, 'WHO WILL ASCEND INTO HEAVEN?'" (that is, to bring Christ down), 7 or "WHO WILL DESCEND INTO THE ABYSS?" (that is, to bring Christ up from the dead)." 8 But what does it say? "THE WORD IS NEAR YOU, IN YOUR MOUTH AND IN YOUR HEART" — that is, the word of faith which we are preaching,*

A. Israel sought righteousness by the Law of Moses

1. But the Law of Moses could not justify anyone.
2. Because it lacked the total forgiveness of sin brought by the sacrifice of Christ. See Hebrews 10:4
3. It was a legal system without grace and mercy, whereby the violators were condemned at the first infraction of the Law.
  - a. Deut 27:26 says that there is a curse on those who don't obey all of it.
4. And Paul says in Gal 3:12 that the Law is not of faith.

B. On the other hand God's righteousness is based on faith

1. And the context of the quote from Deut 30:11-14
  - a. It is not out of their reach
  - b. And it is not too difficult for Israel
  - c. Excuses will not be accepted in regard to it.

C. When God's word is accepted with faith it becomes internalized.

1. Like the prophet Ezekiel was told to eat the scroll (Ezekiel chapter 3)

-Take it in and ingest it...make it a part of you !
2. In John chapter 6 we see Jesus comparing Himself to the manna that God gave the Israelites. He says I am the bread of life and unless you eat my flesh and drink my blood you will not have life Verse 53

-Here we can clearly see that faith is a matter of the internal heart not just a persons outward actions.

**V. Then the righteousness of God, comes through faith in Jesus the Christ.**

Romans 10:9

*9 that if you confess with your mouth Jesus as Lord, and believe in your heart that God raised Him from the dead, you will be saved;*

- A. The words of faith is just what Paul and the Apostles have been preaching.
- B. That if you:
  1. Confess with your mouth (Outward Action)

2. And believe in your heart that God raised Him (Inward Faith in God's plan for righteousness)

\*You will be saved

C. Some folks have thought that believing is the only ingredient for salvation

1. But, this text is simply telling Israel that they must trust in God's plan for righteousness

a. By having faith...or trust in Jesus !

D. But, faith in Jesus also includes action

1. Romans 10:10 *"for with the heart a person believes, resulting in righteousness, and with the mouth he confesses, resulting in salvation."*

a. Is righteousness and salvation separate?

b. Can you have one without the other?

-No !

2. The idea is that God's righteousness includes faith of the heart couple with action, which takes us back to Romans 1:5

## **VI. Whoever calls on the name of Jesus will be saved.**

Romans 10:11-13

*11 For the Scripture says, "WHOEVER BELIEVES IN HIM WILL NOT BE DISAPPOINTED." 12 For there is no distinction between Jew and Greek; for the same Lord is Lord of all, abounding in riches for all who call on Him; 13 for "WHOEVER WILL CALL ON THE NAME OF THE LORD WILL BE SAVED."*

A. Main point....."Whoever"

1. Believe in Jesus
2. Salvation is not just for the Jews

B. God doesn't favor one person or people over another.

1. Romans 2:11 *"For there is no partiality with God."*
2. Galatians 3:28 *"There is neither Jew nor Greek, there is neither slave nor free man, there is neither male nor female; for you are all one in Christ Jesus."*

C. *WHOEVER WILL CALL ON THE NAME OF THE LORD WILL BE SAVED.*”

1. “Calls” here is the Greek work that means to “take the name of”
2. Matt 28:19 Jesus tells his disciple to baptize people into the name of the Father Son and Holy Spirit.
  - a. Which connects directly to Romans 6 talking about being united with Christ in baptism.
3. Another part of taking a name is the acceptance of authority
  - a. Salvation requires acceptance of Christ’s authority in our lives.

**VII. So, the root of faith is found in the words of Christ**

Romans 10:14-17

*14 How then will they call on Him in whom they have not believed? How will they believe in Him whom they have not heard? And how will they hear without a preacher? 15 How will they preach unless they are sent? Just as it is written, "HOW BEAUTIFUL ARE THE FEET OF THOSE WHO BRING GOOD NEWS OF GOOD THINGS!"*

*16 However, they did not all heed the good news; for Isaiah says, "LORD, WHO HAS BELIEVED OUR REPORT?" 17 So faith comes from hearing, and hearing by the word of Christ.*

A. Non believers are to be taught

1. They need a preacher..... “herald”
  - a. That is someone to proclaim the truth of God to them
  - b. We are all heralds for 1 Peter 2:9 “royal priesthood”

B. Verse 16 points out that people will not always accept the words of truth

C. But Faith comes from hearing and hearing by the word of Christ (Greek)

1. That is, the faith that is part of God’s righteousness comes from hearing and understanding the message of our Lord Jesus Christ
  - a. Simply put the power is in the word of God, not in all of mans testimonies or philosophies.

## **VIII. It is Israel's fault that she is lost.**

Romans 10:18-21

*18 But I say, surely they have never heard, have they? Indeed they have;  
"THEIR VOICE HAS GONE OUT INTO ALL THE EARTH,  
AND THEIR WORDS TO THE ENDS OF THE WORLD."*

*19 But I say, surely Israel did not know, did they? First Moses says,  
" I WILL MAKE YOU JEALOUS BY THAT WHICH IS NOT A NATION,  
BY A NATION WITHOUT UNDERSTANDING WILL I ANGER YOU."*

*20 And Isaiah is very bold and says,  
" I WAS FOUND BY THOSE WHO DID NOT SEEK ME,  
I BECAME MANIFEST TO THOSE WHO DID NOT ASK FOR ME."*

*21 But as for Israel He says, "ALL THE DAY LONG I HAVE STRETCHED OUT MY  
HANDS TO A DISOBEDIENT AND OBSTINATE PEOPLE."*

A. Israel has:

1. Heard the truth
2. Knows what is right
3. Rejected God's righteousness

B. It is Israel's fault that she is lost.

### **Conclusion:**

**Today maybe a good question to ask:**

**-Would God say of you that you are stubborn?**

**-Does your actions cause God grief?**

**-If this is you, isn't it time for a change?**