

ROMANS 9:30-33

In concluding this chapter, Paul concludes his opening treatise on Israel's calling by contrasting the Gentiles, who have attained righteousness by faith, with Jews, who have not attained righteousness because they did it through works. The use of two groups, Jews and Gentiles, doesn't mean that all Gentiles are saved and all Jews are lost. Salvation, as chapter 10 develops, is individually attained, not corporately attained. In fact, to put to rest any suggestion that there are no Jews who are saved, Paul addresses this in the beginning of chapter 11.

These four verses should strip all of self-righteousness and encourage both Jew and Gentile to come to God, through Jesus, on the basis of faith alone.

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.**

"What shall we say then?" is a rhetorical question leading to the requirement for righteousness which brings salvation - the requirement is faith not works.

THE CONDITION OF GENTILES BEFORE THE COMING OF JESUS

Ephesians 2: 11-12 "Wherefore remember, that ye being in time past Gentiles in the flesh, who are called Uncircumcision by that which is called the Circumcision in the flesh made by hands; That at that time ye were without Christ, being aliens from the commonwealth of Israel, and strangers from the covenants of promise, having no hope, and without God in the world:"

THE CONDITION OF GENTILES AFTER THE COMING OF JESUS

Ephesians 2: 13 "But now in Christ Jesus ye who sometimes were far off are made nigh by the blood of Christ."

THE NEED FOR RIGHTEOUSNESS

Of the 92 verses in the NT where *righteousness* is used, the book of Romans has 33 of these verses.

Romans 3:22 "Even the righteousness of God which is by faith of Jesus Christ unto all and upon all them that believe: for there is no difference."

There is no difference between Jew and Gentile when it concerns the issue of salvation.

Self-Righteousness is sin

"But we are all as an unclean thing, and all our righteousnesses are as filthy rags; and we all do fade as a leaf; and our iniquities, like the wind, have taken us away," Isaiah 64: 6.

Imputed righteousness of Jesus is needed

Romans 4: 19-25

"And being not weak in faith, he considered not his own body now dead, when he was about an hundred years old, neither yet the deadness of Sara's womb:
He staggered not at the promise of God through unbelief; but was strong in faith, giving glory to God;
And being fully persuaded that, what he had promised, he was able also to perform.
And therefore it was imputed to him for righteousness.
Now it was not written for his sake alone, that it was imputed to him;
But for us also, to whom it shall be imputed, if we believe on him that raised up Jesus our Lord from the dead;
Who was delivered for our offences, and was raised again for our justification."

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

The law of righteousness is the Mosaic law.

RIGHTEOUSNESS CAN BE ATTAINED BY PERFECT OBEDIENCE TO THE MOSAIC LAW

"Is the law then against the promises of God? God forbid: for if there had been a law given which could have given life, verily righteousness should have been by the law," Galatians 3: 21.

THE PROBLEM IS THAT NO MAN CAN BE PERFECTLY OBEDIENT TO THE MOSAIC LAW

"But the scripture hath concluded all under sin, that the promise by faith of Jesus Christ might be given to them that believe," Galatians 3:22.

JESUS DID (FOR US) WHAT NO MAN CAN DO - HE WAS PERFECTLY OBEDIENT TO THE MOSAIC LAW

There are two parts to the Law.

"I call heaven and earth to record this day against you, that I have set before you life and death, blessing and cursing: therefore choose life, that both thou and thy seed may live," Deuteronomy 30:19.

"Think not that I am come to destroy the law, or the prophets: I am not come to destroy, but to fulfil. For verily I say unto you, Till heaven and earth pass, one jot or one tittle shall in no wise pass from the law, till all be fulfilled," Matthew 5:17-18.

"For Christ is the end of the law for righteousness to every one that believeth," Romans 10:4.

"Christ hath redeemed us from the curse of the law, being made a curse for us: for it is written, Cursed is every one that hangeth on a tree," Galatians 3:13.

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;**

The problem the Jewish people had (have) is they are confused about the purpose of the Mosaic Law.

Individuals - show their sin	"Therefore by the deeds of the law there shall no flesh be justified in his sight: for by the law is the knowledge of sin," Romans 3:20.
Israel - Laws for the nation	"Now therefore, if ye will obey my voice indeed, and keep my covenant, then ye shall be a peculiar treasure unto me above all people: for all the earth is mine: And ye shall be unto me a kingdom of priests, and an holy nation. These are the words which thou shalt speak unto the children of Israel." Exodus 19:5-6.

The *stumbling stone* is the LORD (Messiah Jesus).

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.**

The *stumbling stone and rock of offence* laid in Zion is referencing to Isaiah 8:13-15.

- 13 Sanctify the LORD of hosts himself; and let him be your fear, and let him be your dread.
- 14 And he shall be for a sanctuary; but for a stone of stumbling and for a rock of offence to both the houses of Israel, for a gin and for a snare to the inhabitants of Jerusalem.
- 15 And many among them shall stumble, and fall, and be broken, and be snared, and be taken.

Why do Jewish people reject Jesus?

He is a stumbling stone	The Jewish concept of Messiah is derived from extra biblical writings, with just a cursory nod to the fact that the Tenach is the only source God have given for information about the coming Messiah. Because of this a Messiah who is God who became man, and there are many verses that teach this, is a major stumbling stone.
He is a Rock of offence	The thought of a suffering Messiah for sin is an offence to the pride of men, who believe they can attain righteous by their own merit.
If we believe in Jesus there should be no shame	"Whosoever therefore shall be ashamed of me and of my words in this adulterous and sinful generation; of him also shall the Son of man be ashamed, when he cometh in the glory of his Father with the holy angels," Mark 8:38.