

Bibles???

The Word of God is the Absolute Truth and the Final Authority

Turn your bibles with me to Romans 10

We are continuing our verse-by-verse study through this amazing letter that the Apostle Paul under the inspiration of the Holy Spirit – wrote to believers in Rome and to us today – about the fundamentals of our faith.

About Grace

About how the just shall live by faith

How salvation is a free gift – available to anyone

Jew/Gentile

All we need to do is receive it (which means believe it, embrace it, experience it) by faith.

God made it simple for us

We are the ones that complicate it

We are the ones that insist on adding works of the flesh to it.

And for the most part – this was the stumbling block for the Jews as Paul writes this letter.

We studied this a few weeks ago – in Ch 9 –

As Paul argued that the Jews rejected the gospel of grace because they were trying to earn righteousness by works – not by grace.

[Rom 9:32-33 NKJV] 32 Why? Because [they did] not [seek it] by faith, but as it were, by the works of the law. For they stumbled at that stumbling stone. 33 As it is written: "Behold, I lay in Zion a stumbling stone and rock of offense, And whoever believes on Him will not be put to shame."

The gospel of grace was a stumbling stone to them –

A rock of offense –

Jesus is that stone

Instead of embracing Jesus,

Instead of resting on Jesus

They rejected Jesus.

They came up with excuses

“We have to follow the law” the Gospel of Grace says - Jesus fulfilled the law

“We are saved because of our physical connection to Abraham” – the Gospel of Grace says, we are saved because we have the same faith as Abraham – the believer believes in the promises of God.

This was one of the biggest stumbling blocks for the Jews – that salvation was extended to the Gentiles.

This was one of their excuses for rejecting the gospel of grace.

This is why Paul became public enemy #1 to them.

And yet – Paul still had a burden in his heart for the Jew –

He wanted nothing more than to see them embrace the Gospel of Grace

This is why Paul has turned his attention to the Jews in Ch 9,10,11

So this morning, as we finish Ch 10

Paul is going to challenge the Jew and the non believer.

Because in this chapter, Paul has presented to them the Gospel of Grace.

Paul has presented to them God’s righteousness.

Paul has presented to them the good news that God loves sinners.

That God wants to save them.

And that the solution to the problem of sin is only found in Jesus.

But Paul also knows that many will still make excuses when it comes to embracing the Gospel of Grace.

Let's pray...

Read Text

[Rom 10:18-21 NKJV] 18 But I say, have they not heard? Yes indeed: "Their sound has gone out to all the earth, And their words to the ends of the world." 19 But I say, did Israel not know? First Moses says: "I will provoke you to jealousy by [those who are] not a nation, I will move you to anger by a foolish nation." 20 But Isaiah is very bold and says: "I was found by those who did not seek Me; I was made manifest to those who did not ask for Me." 21 But to Israel he says: "All day long I have stretched out My hands To a disobedient and contrary people."

I've titled my sermon – "Stop making excuses"

Last week, we looked at our commission –

That as the true believer embraces the gospel and experiences His forgiveness and redemption and salvation – our response would be to share it with those that God has put in our life.

But we also understand that not everyone who hears the message of the gospel will embrace the gospel.

Not every non believer who walks in those doors on Sunday morning or Wednesday evening and hears the gospel will walk out of here embracing the gospel.

Because one of the responses as we are presenting the gospel is an objection to the gospel.

“I am not ready”

“I grew up in so and so denomination”

“This is so narrow minded – why is there only one way”

“I am a good person”

And so on.

This is our human nature – this is our sinful nature, we make excuses.

And really what we do when we make excuses is that we attempt to escape responsibility.

It is a refusal to take ownership.

So we pass the blame for our sins to others.

“I didn’t mean to say those hurtful things / I didn’t mean to get angry – the circumstances made me do it”

I’ve heard the term “hangry” a few times this week at work.

I was angry because I was hungry – no you are angry because you can't control your anger.

Was Jesus hangry when He fasted 40 days and 40 nights in the wilderness? No

It is a sin issue.

We blame the circumstances or others – even though it wasn't the circumstances or others that drove us to do it.

It has been like this from the Garden of Eden –

[Gen 3:12 NKJV] 12 Then the man said, "The woman whom You gave [to be] with me, she gave me of the tree, and I ate."

Not only is Adam blaming Eve for his sin but Adam is also blaming God for creating and giving him this woman that led him into that sin.

Adam was passing the buck.

Adam was refusing to take ownership for his own rebellion against God.

This is what Paul is addressing here in these verses.

He is confronting the excuses concerning why Israel has not embraced the gospel of grace.

Keep it in context – remember, CH 9 was all about God's sovereignty.

God's election

So Paul anticipates excuses –

What if someone has not heard the gospel?

What if someone is not elected by God?

Let's look at our text -

[Rom 10:18-21 NKJV] 18 But I say, have they not heard? Yes indeed: "Their sound has gone out to all the earth, And their words to the ends of the world."

I had you make a note of the word "they"

Because as a minimum, I believe Paul is referring to the Jews here but he could also be referring to humanity as a whole.

And so Paul anticipates the question from some of his listeners -

And so he says –

"I know what you are thinking - Is it possible that they do not believe because they have not heard the gospel?"

And immediately Paul answers the question – "of course they have heard."

How so?

Because the entire Old Testament from Genesis to Malachi speaks of Jesus

They had heard is as the gospel was being presented not only by Paul but other believers as well.

Paul writes this letter almost 25-30 years after the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ

So for 25-30 years – “they” heard the gospel.

And so, to make his point – Paul quotes from Psalm 19

Turn with me to Psalm 19

I want to read it in context -

[Psa 19:1-4 NKJV] 1 To the Chief Musician. A Psalm of David. The heavens declare the glory of God; And the firmament shows His handiwork. 2 Day unto day utters speech, And night unto night reveals knowledge. 3 [There is] no speech nor language [Where] their voice is not heard. 4 Their line has gone out through all the earth, And their words to the end of the world. In them He has set a tabernacle for the sun,

David in his Psalm tells us that anyone anywhere in the world can look at nature and come to the conclusion that there is a Creator.

And that the creation bears witness of what the Creator is like.

In creation we see God’s fingerprints, we see God’s DNA

The last two weeks in our midweek study through Job –

As God is taking the stand –

We have seen Him reveal Himself through creation –

How He created everything

How He upholds everything

How He cares about everything

The fact that the sun came up this morning / the rain that we had the last few days is evidence that He is a faithful Creator.

This is what Psalm 19 is all about

There is not a person who does not have the witness from God of the existence of God and that God is there.

So Paul uses Psalm 19:4 as an illustration of how the gospel message had already gone out far and wide throughout the Roman Empire.

This is what Paul means when he refers to all the world – we see this reference in some of his other letters -

In his letter to the church in Colosse –

Regarding the gospel he writes – **[Col 1:6 NKJV] 6 which has come to you, as [it has] also in all the world, and is bringing forth fruit, as [it is] also among you since the day you heard and knew the grace of God in truth;**

The gospel message was being preached throughout the known world during this time.

How? By the power of the Holy Spirit

Turn with me to Acts 2 –

[Act 2:5-11 NKJV] 5 And there were dwelling in Jerusalem Jews, devout men, from every nation under heaven. 6 And when this sound occurred, the multitude came together, and were confused, because everyone heard them speak in his own language. 7 Then they were all amazed and marveled, saying to one another, "Look, are not all these who speak Galileans? 8 "And how [is it that] we hear, each in our own language in which we were born? 9 "Parthians and Medes and Elamites, those dwelling in Mesopotamia, Judea and Cappadocia, Pontus and Asia, 10 "Phrygia and Pamphylia, Egypt and the parts of Libya adjoining Cyrene, visitors from Rome, both Jews and proselytes, 11 "Cretans and Arabs-- we hear them speaking in our own tongues the wonderful works of God."

And afterwards Peter preaches his sermon and 3000 converts –

The gospel goes out.

So there was no way for the nation of Israel to play the “ignorance card”

There are no excuses for people to play the ignorance card even today.

Someone might ask the question -

“I have heard the gospel, I have heard about Jesus, I heard about how He lived a perfect life and died on the cross and how He rose from the dead – but what about people who have never heard?”

Our question should be - Well what do they know?

Because everyone has access to the reality that if we live in creation, there is a Creator.

Paul understands that everyone has a responsibility to act on what they know.

Did the Jews really know?

Did the Jews really understand?

19 But I say, did Israel not know? First Moses says: "I will provoke you to jealousy by [those who are] not a nation, I will move you to anger by a foolish nation."

Paul is saying here – not only have you heard – you understood – you are responsible

Did Israel now know that God was going to send a Messiah? Yes, they did know – they anticipated Him coming – they just didn't want a Suffering Mesiah.

Are there qualifications in order to be the Messiah? Yes

Did Israel reject her Messiah? For the most part - Yes

Did Israel not know that upon their rejection of the Messiah – that God was going to turn to the Gentiles and offer the gospel and the message of hope and the message of forgiveness and the message of reconciliation to Himself.

They did know

And to show that they did know –

Paul quotes from Deut 32

Turn with me there -

[Deu 32:20-21 NKJV] 20 And He said: 'I will hide My face from them, I will see what their end [will be], For they [are] a perverse generation, Children in whom [is] no faith. 21 They have provoked Me to jealousy by [what] is not God; They have moved Me to anger by their foolish idols. But I will provoke them to jealousy by [those who are] not a nation; I will move them to anger by a foolish nation.

While wandering in the wilderness, the nation of Israel kept rebelling against God and they began worshipping various other gods.

They made God jealous.

So God would in turn make them jealous by reaching out to nations that would be considered “foolish” to them.

Gentile nations – you and I

This is what Paul is saying –

In the wilderness because you rejected and rebelled against God, He offered His blessing to the Gentile.

Now, because you have rejected God’s gift of salvation – it has been extended to the Gentile.

Israel’s rejection was not only willful and deliberate – it was prophetic.

Paul knows the sad history of his own people – their pattern of unbelief that culminated in the rejection of Jesus Christ as their Messiah.

They (Israel) knew the truth.

They (those who have heard the gospel and willfully rejected the gospel today) have heard the truth.

And when they hear how the gospel has transformed the lives of people

When they hear how those who struggled with addiction have been made new by the power of the Holy Spirit

Their anger and jealousy arouses

20 But Isaiah is very bold and says: "I was found by those who did not seek Me; I was made manifest to those who did not ask for Me."

Paul quoted Moses in the last verse and now he quotes Isaiah –

You can turn with me there -

[Isa 65:1-2 NKJV] 1 "I was sought by [those who] did not ask [for Me]; I was found by [those who] did not seek Me. I said, 'Here I am, here I am,' To a nation [that] was not called by My name. 2 I have stretched out My hands all day long to a rebellious people, Who walk in a way [that is] not good, According to their own thoughts;

Isaiah prophesizes that the Gentile would find God

That they would experience the real and true God of heaven

So, how could a group of people who were not even looking for God, find God

How could it be that God would make Himself known to a people who didn't deliberately seek Him?

The Gentiles were steeped in idolatry with a wicked and pagan world view.

Just like many of us were

I didn't grow up in a Christian home

I didn't grow up going to Sunday School

I didn't grow up in a family where we read the bible

And then the Holy Spirit begins to soften my heart and put people in my life that are going to share the gospel.

People who shared with me about the love of Jesus and peace of Jesus and grace of Jesus and forgiveness of Jesus.

Did I make up excuses

Did I have objections to what they were sharing?

– yes I did

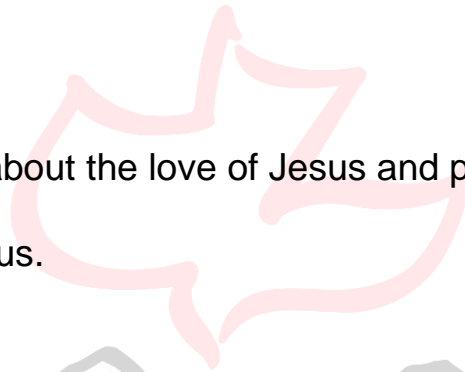
“I am too young”

“Not interested in religion”

“You guys are all a bunch of hypocrites”

“How can a God of love send people to hell?”

But the Lord continued to soften my heart and the Lord continued to give those individuals in my life strength and wisdom and perseverance to continue to share the gospel with me.



This is what Paul is doing to his fellow Jew

He wants them to respond

He wants them to experience forgiveness and hope and salvation

He is not giving up on them

21 But to Israel he says: “All day long I have stretched out My hands **To a disobedient and contrary people.**”

This is part of the same quote we just read in Isaiah

Paul concludes this chapter – by providing an illustration of God’s response to Israel’s present rejection of the Gospel of Grace.

It’s a picture of a Father stretching out His arms waiting for His prodigal child to return.

God is patient

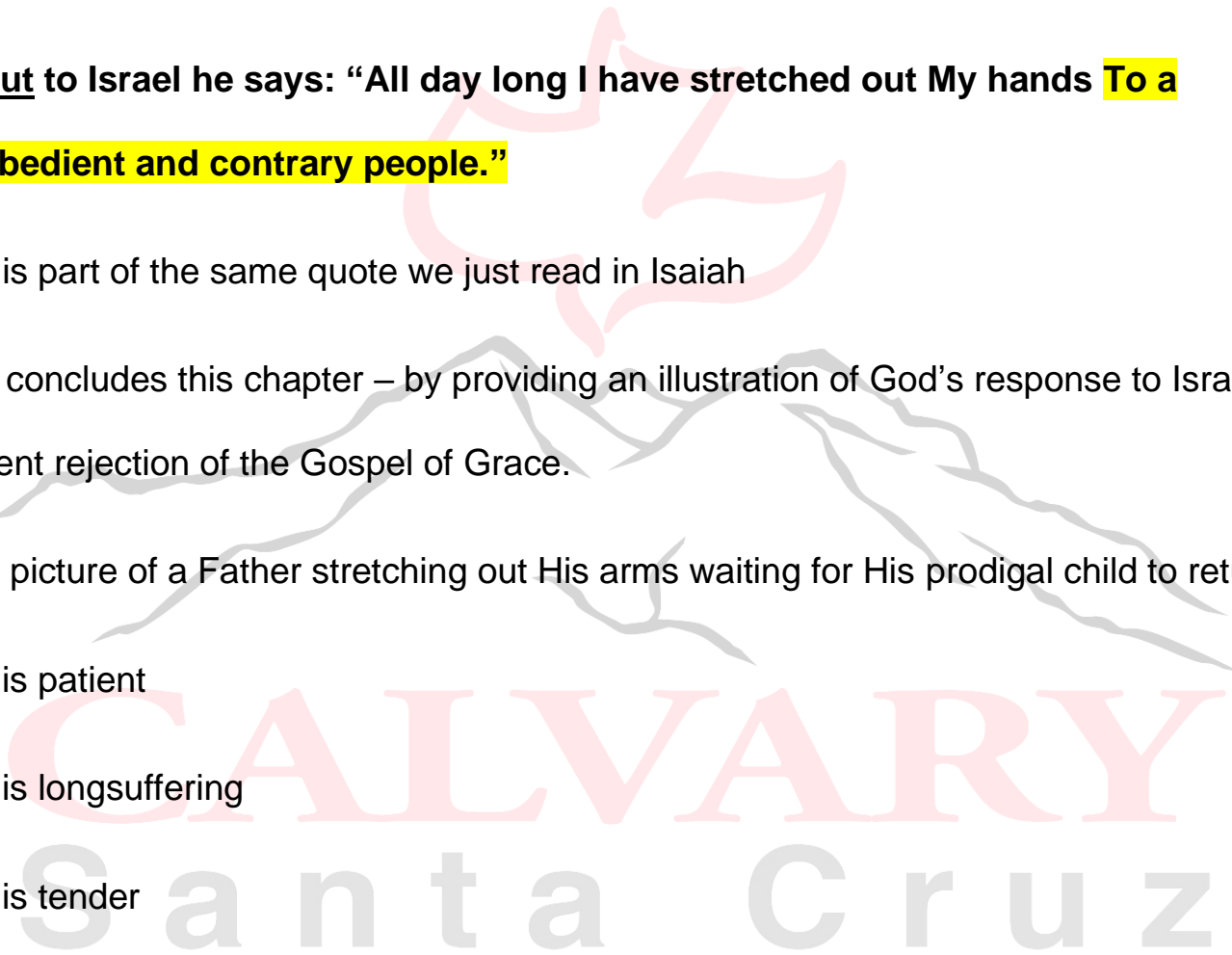
God is longsuffering

God is tender

God is kind

His arms are open wide

And notice this invitation is - To a disobedient and contrary people.”



I am pretty sure that most of us have loved ones who have come up with every possible excuse to not embrace the Gospel of Grace

We begin to share with them, and they make fun of us

The ridicule us

So we tend to avoid them –

But Paul as he quotes from Isaiah – he gives us the image that we should have toward them

The same image that our heavenly Father had of us when we were contrary and we were rebellious and disobedient

(arms stretched wide)

God is waiting and waiting and waiting

That is what Paul is reminding his fellow Jew

He is pleading for Israel to return.

Which is the same thing that we are to do with those who God has put a burden in our heart for.

[2Co 5:20-21 NKJV] 20 Now then, we are ambassadors for Christ, as though God were pleading through us: we implore [you] on Christ's behalf, be reconciled to

God. 21 For He made Him who knew no sin [to be] sin for us, that we might become the righteousness of God in Him.

Paul has presented the gospel

He has presented the simplicity of salvation

“whoever calls on the name of the LORD shall be saved

They have heard the truth

They understand the truth

And Paul’s message to the his fellow Jew is that even in their stubbornness – God is not done with them – and we will find that - hope in ch 11

Let’s pray...

To Receive Christ do the following:

Admit, “I am a sinner.”

Confess and be willing to turn from your sin.


Believe, by faith that Jesus Christ died for you on the cross.



Receive, through prayer, Jesus Christ into your heart and receive eternal life.

Dear Lord Jesus,

I know that I am a sinner and need Your forgiveness. I believe that You died on the cross for my sins. Please forgive me for my sins and cleanse me by Your blood. I accept You by faith as my personal Lord and Savior. Give me a thirst for Your Word and Help me to follow You all of my days. In Jesus' name I pray, Amen.



[Num 6:24-26 NLT] 24 '

May the LORD bless you and protect you.

May the LORD smile on you and be gracious to you.

May the LORD show you his favor and give you his peace.'