

Bibles???

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

Please turn your bibles with me to Romans 9

We are continuing our verse-by-verse sturdy through the Book of Romans

A letter that the Apostle Paul, under the inspiration of the Holy Spirit, wrote to believers in Rome and to us today – about the Gospel of Grace.

That every person, apart from Christ – is condemned.

That we can only be made right with God – by embracing and trusting in the work of Jesus Christ upon the cross and His resurrection.

That anyone can be saved by faith

It is not because of our heritage that we are made right

It is not because of what church I go to that we are made right

Or by works –

It is Jesus

And only Jesus

Peter – **[Act 4:12 NKJV] 12 "Nor is there salvation in any other, for there is no other name under heaven given among men by which we must be saved."**

It is very clear

God wanted to make it very simple for us – one way

We are the one who make it complicated.

Paul has told us that the believer has been justified – He has delivered us from the consequences of sin – our separation from God

The believer (now) is being sanctified (He is delivering us from the power of sin) as we lean on the Holy Spirit – it is His power and leading and guidance that conforms us into the image of Christ.

And even though we still stumble and struggle with our flesh – for the believer – in God's eyes – He sees the finished work – our glorification.

That one day, He will rescue us from the presence of sin.

And as Paul wants us to embrace this –

His love for his fellow Jew is also revealed

Because in the same way that he has seen gentiles embrace the gospel of grace – he has seen his people – for the most part, reject the gospel of grace.

And so Paul – here in ch 9,10,11 – he turns his attention to the listeners of his letter who are of Jewish descent.

Those that he anticipates them asking – “How is possible that God would set aside the nation of Israel and begin to move among the Gentiles”

The same Jesus that saves, our Living hope, the rock of salvation –

To the Jew, Jesus has become a rock of offense and a stumbling block

And so Paul – as we have seen in this chapter –

he is emotionally moved by this – his heart is crushed (verse 2 -I have great sorrow and continual grief in my heart.)

his desire is that all Jews come to repentance –

Which by the way, should be the same desire that we should have for our fellow loved one who are not saved.

So we are going to conclude ch 9 this morning – with Paul reminding the readers of God’s faithfulness to the Jews in the past and how the scriptures reveal their rejection of His grace.

Let’s pray...

Read Text -

There are three things that we have picked up here in CH 9 regarding God’s election –

1. God has the power to do whatever He wants to do. Why? Because He is God.
So we have looked at His sovereignty and man's responsibility.
2. God's election reveals His long suffering – we saw this with the illustration of Pharaoh. That God is not willing that any shall perish.
3. He is the Potter and we are the clay. He chooses how He is going to do things – that is the way it has always been.

So, Paul is dealing here with the question about what the gospel means to the Jews
Paul knows that both the Jew and the Gentile are going to have questions regarding God's election.

He anticipates the question – “What about us?”

“What about the promises to our fathers – Abraham, Isaac and Jacob?”

And Paul's answer – is that salvation isn't based on who you are a descendant of.

It is about who you are trusting in.

The Jews who were rejecting the gospel of grace – they were putting their trust in Abraham – in the physical lineage.

But trusting in Abraham doesn't get us right with God –

It is trusting in Jesus.

And so last week – Paul made the statement in verse 24 that would have irritated the Jew - **Romans 9:24 (NKJV) even us whom He called, not of the Jews only, but also of the Gentiles?**

He tells us here that the true seed of Abraham, true Israel, are the called of God of all nations. This verse tells us that God not only chooses some out of Israel to be vessels of mercy, but he chooses some from the Gentiles also.

And he proceeds by quoting the Old Testament

[Rom 9:25-33 NKJV] 25 As He says also in Hosea: "I will call them My people, who were not My people, And her beloved, who was not beloved." 26 "And it shall come to pass in the place where it was said to them, 'You [are] not My people,' There they shall be called sons of the living God."

Turn with me to the book of Hosea –

If you have never read the book of Hosea –

God is speaking to the ten northern tribes of Israel -

God is speaking to apostate Israel –

[Hos 1:1-10 NKJV] 1 The word of the LORD that came to Hosea the son of Beeri, in the days of Uzziah, Jotham, Ahaz, [and] Hezekiah, kings of Judah, and in the days of Jeroboam the son of Joash, king of Israel. 2 When the LORD began to

speak by Hosea, the LORD said to Hosea: "Go, take yourself a wife of harlotry
 And children of harlotry, For the land has committed great harlotry [By
 departing] from the LORD." 3 So he went and took Gomer the daughter of
 Diblaim, and she conceived and bore him a son. 4 Then the LORD said to him:
 "Call his name **Jezreel**, For in a little [while] I will avenge the bloodshed of
 Jezreel on the house of Jehu, And bring an end to the kingdom of the house of
 Israel. 5 It shall come to pass in that day That I will break the bow of Israel in the
 Valley of Jezreel." 6 And she conceived again and bore a daughter. Then [God]
 said to him: "Call her name **Lo-Ruhamah**, For I will no longer have mercy on the
 house of Israel, But I will utterly take them away. 7 Yet I will have mercy on the
 house of Judah, Will save them by the LORD their God, And will not save them
 by bow, Nor by sword or battle, By horses or horsemen." 8 Now when she had
 weaned Lo-Ruhamah, she conceived and bore a son. 9 Then [God] said: "Call his
 name **Lo-Ammi**, For you [are] not My people, And I will not be your [God]. 10 "Yet
 the number of the children of Israel Shall be as the sand of the sea, Which
 cannot be measured or numbered. And it shall come to pass In the place where it
 was said to them, 'You [are] not My people,' [There] it shall be said to them, '[You
 are] sons of the living God.'

God calls on the prophet Hosea

God tells Hosea, "I want you to marry a prostitute – Gomer"

Because God was going to use that marriage – to illustrate what Israel was doing – they had committed spiritual idolatry – they had strayed - they were worshipping everything and anything.

They have three children

The meaning of their names

Jezreel – scattered

Lo-Ruhamah – no mercy / not loved

Lo-Ammi – not my people

And later on - Gomer goes back to prostituting and God tells Hosea –

I want to go looking for her

I want you to find her

I want you to forgive her and restore her – Take her back.

It is a great story of God's mercy and of His grace.

The entire book is a prophesy what was about to happen to Israel – As God would raise up the Assyrians to come up against Israel.

Israel had broken the covenant and would experience the covenantal curses.

So Hosea got to live out the reality to show the Children of Israel that God is a faithful God even in the midst of an unfaithful people.

Here is the point – all of this is tied up to what Paul has been speaking about

God sovereignty

God's election

God's calling

The Jew would question – why God would choose the Gentile to do His work and to come into this incredible relationship with Him?

Answer – God shows compassion and mercy and grace upon those He chooses to show compassion, grace and mercy.

He did it to the Children of Israel –

And in the same way – God speaks to the Gentile believers.

,'You [are] not My people,' There they shall be called sons of the living God.'

Why?

Not because they are physically connected to Abraham or because of the heritage or because of the connection to the law

But because of a new relationship

Because we have the Holy Spirit living inside of us.

Because of our connection to Jesus

It doesn't matter what our background is – Jew / Gentile

God doesn't hold our past against us

He took the punishment for our sins on the cross

27 Isaiah also cries out concerning Israel: "Though the number of the children of Israel be as the sand of the sea, **The remnant will be saved."**

God doesn't save nations – He saves individuals.

It is a personal salvation

It is a personal relationship

The Jews were convinced that because they were Jews – they were saved.

Paul quoting here from Isaiah –

Isaiah made it clear that the real Israel of God was not equivalent with the 12 tribes.

There was an Israel within Israel – the remnant

A group of people in the midst of God's people who are truly God's people.

And this is the way God works – there is always a remnant that God preserves.

Those that He saved and kept

He did it back then –

He will do it in the future

And He does it today

That is His amazing grace

This is His work

We are here this morning by the grace of God

To the Jew –

The remnant consisted of

Those who were not only the physical descendants of Abraham, Isaac & Jacob, but their spiritual descendants as well, because they had the same faith in God the Abraham, Isaac and Jacob had.

Paul actually makes the statement earlier on in this chapter –

In verse 6

For they are not all Israel who are of Israel,

God's promises do not pertain to the mass of Israel but are fulfilled in the remnant.

28 For He will finish the work and cut [it] short in righteousness, Because the LORD will make a short work upon the earth."

Paul is showing us that this dispensation of time –

It is a part of God's mercy and grace.

What God does is always perfectly just, including the execution of His judgment.

It was true back in the time of Isaiah, and it is true today.

29 And as Isaiah said before: "Unless the LORD of Sabaoth had left us a seed, We would have become like Sodom, And we would have been made like Gomorrah."

Paul is making the point here – as once again, he quotes from Isaiah –

That unless God left a remnant – a small group of faithful people, we would have been like Sodom and Gomorrah – we would have been destroyed.

So in dealing with the remnant – God demonstrates His grace and mercy.

Church, we want to be part of that remnant –

We want to remain faithful to what God has called us to do –

To continue to preach Christ crucified.

To be faithful to His word

Because as we embrace His grace, love and mercy – we want to share the same grace, love and mercy that He bestowed upon us.

And that is exactly what Paul is doing here.

The Jew for the most part – they rejected His grace, mercy and love.

We want to chose a different way – our way.

The Gentile – as God softened their heart – they embraced it

And the Jew went from being on the inside to the outside

And the Gentile went from the outside to the inside –

30 What shall we say then? That Gentiles, who did not pursue righteousness, have attained to righteousness, even the righteousness of faith; 31 but Israel, pursuing the law of righteousness, has not attained to the law of righteousness.

What is the conclusion?

That is what Paul is saying here

The Gentiles who did not pursue or seek righteousness -

They made no effort – this verse ties back to verse 16

[Rom 9:16 NKJV] 16 So then [it is] not of him who wills, nor of him who runs, but of God who shows mercy.

The Gentiles did not will – the Gentiles did not run, but God chose them and called them.

This is the human response to God's sovereign election – faith

We only respond in faith because God gives us faith.

[Eph 2:8-9 NKJV] 8 For by grace you have been saved through faith, and that not of yourselves; [it is] the gift of God, 9 not of works, lest anyone should boast.

Our faith is a gift of God.

The way of redemption

The way of forgiveness

The way of righteousness

The way of reconciliation is by faith and trust in Jesus

The Jews who were looking for righteousness

Who were looking for redemption

Didn't find it.

But the Gentiles who were not even looking for it – found it.

Why?

Because Isarel sought salvation by keeping the law

And in their pursuit of the law of righteousness, they were not able to maintain the law of righteousness.

By the way – I had you make a note of the word “attained” in both verse 30 and 31 –

And here is the reason why –

Because in the Greek they are totally different words.

In verse 30 – regarding the Gentile believer, the picture is of one already having received the prize. They are holding on to the prize.

Paul has already made a case that salvation is received through faith (Romans CH 1-5).

These Gentiles, who were not God’s “original chosen people”, when they heard the gospel, received it and were saved.

In verse 31 – the word refers to the anticipation – it is a picture of someone not having received.

One attained righteousness

One didn’t

Regarding Abraham –

[Gen 15:6 NKJV] 6 And he believed in the LORD, and He accounted it to him for righteousness.

He was accepted by God on the basis that he believed the promise of God

And what is the biggest promise of all

I will save you

I will forgive you

I will heal you

I will redeem you

I will reconcile you to myself

[Rom 10:17 NKJV] 17 So then faith [comes] by hearing, and hearing by the word of God.

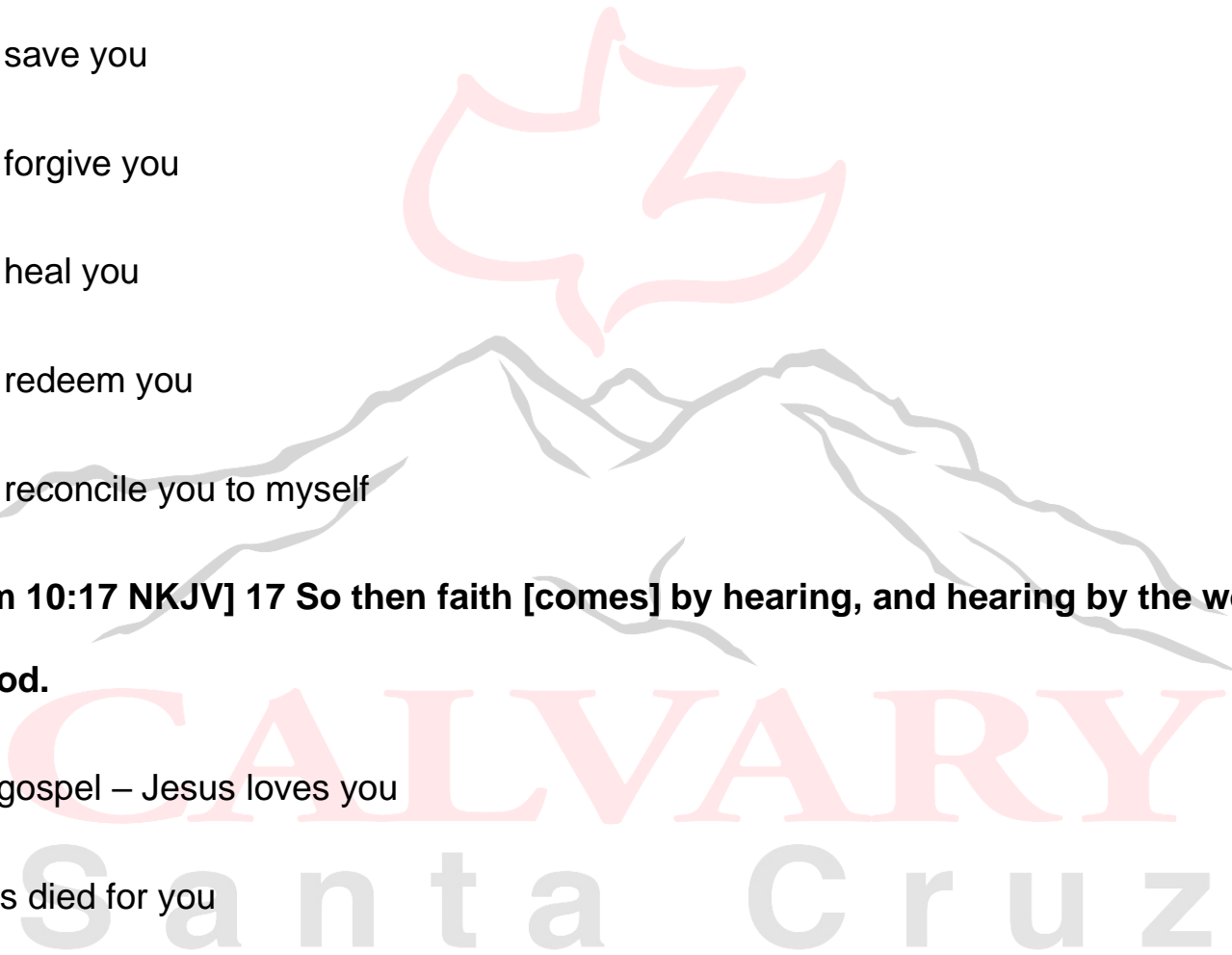
The gospel – Jesus loves you

Jesus died for you

Jesus rose for you

Jesus has done it all.

And so grace is only found in Jesus



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.

The entire book of Romans is about this simple thing

How is somebody declared righteous by God

The just shall live by faith

I have repeated it over and over again

Is it by works – and all the people said.....NO

It is by faith

The Jews tried to attain that righteousness in their own works

And because they wanted to pull themselves up by their own boot straps

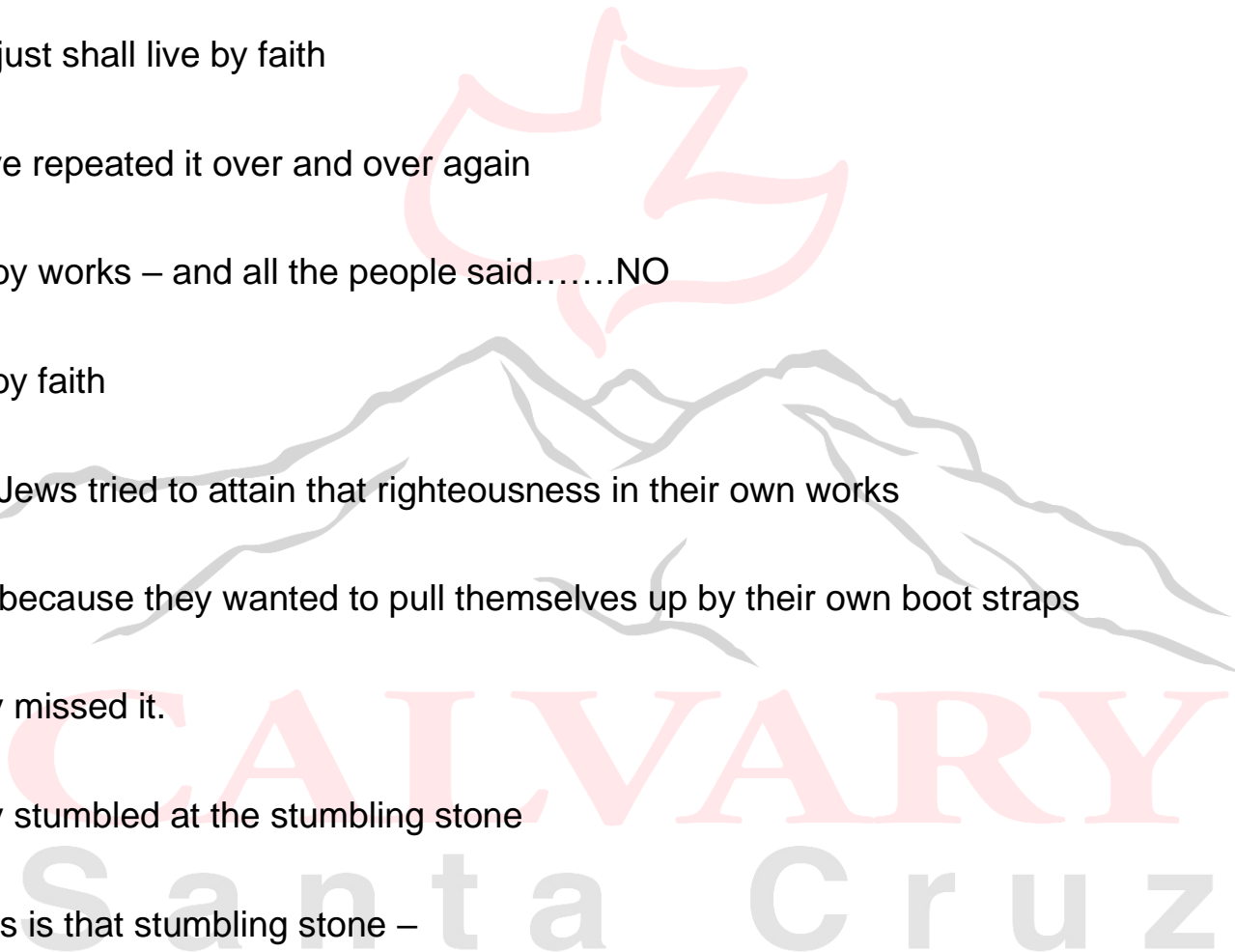
They missed it.

They stumbled at the stumbling stone

Jesus is that stumbling stone –

The question here Paul is directed at the Jews

But in reality church –



That same question can be asked of anyone who doesn't have a relationship with Jesus Christ

Why have they not attained righteousness?

It is because there are people who want righteousness on the basis of something other than Jesus.

Other than His love

Other than His blood and sacrifice.

Other than His death and resurrection.

The righteousness was not kept from the Jews because God hated the Jews or because God misled the Jews

They refused to believe and trust in the Lord Jesus and chose to rather embrace a righteousness of personal merit.

This also applies to Gentile non believers.

Who say -

Unless I get these things right in my life – God doesn't love me.

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 picture here is of one road –

And as you and I are traveling on this road – we come upon this rock

For some, that rock becomes an offense and a block

They want to remove the rock – get it out of the way – and so it become a stumbling block as they devote their time and energy to moving that rock out of the way and their progress on that road comes to a stop.

They will want that rock to go away – because they want to have a right relationship with God – apart from Christ, apart from grace.

But for those that come down that same road – instead of looking at that rock as an offense – they see that rock as a place of rest / a place of refuge

Jesus is that rock –

How do we know -

And whoever believes on Him (the rock) will not be put to shame."

That rock is the place of forgiveness

That rock is the place of redemption

That rock is the place of reconciliation

Turn with me to 1 Peter 2

[1Pe 2:6-8 NKJV] 6 Therefore it is also contained in the Scripture, "Behold, I lay in Zion A chief cornerstone, elect, precious, And he who believes on Him will by no means be put to shame." 7 Therefore, to you who believe, [He is] precious; but to those who are disobedient, "The stone which the builders rejected Has become the chief cornerstone," 8 and "A stone of stumbling And a rock of offense." They stumble, being disobedient to the word, to which they also were appointed.

Paul answers the question – how could a people so favored, be rejected and a people not favored could be so accepted.

Paul's answer – the Gentiles were willing to do what the Jews were not willing to do

They were willing to believe in Jesus by faith

They were willing to place their trust, their confidence and their love and their hope and their future in Jesus Christ.

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.

[Isa 42:1 NKJV] 1 "Behold! My Servant whom I uphold, My Elect One [in whom] My soul delights! I have put My Spirit upon Him; He will bring forth justice to the Gentiles.

God elects alright –

He elects to accomplish salvation through His Son.

All those who put their faith in Christ are elect because He is.

[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.'

