

“Grace & Peace to You”

A STUDY IN THE BOOK OF ROMANS

Voice of China and Asia

Bible Class Instructor: *Dr. Geof W. Jackson, Board Member*

ROMANS LESSON 71 PART 1: WHO HAS BELIEVED?

ROMANS 10:11-15 For the **SCRIPTURE** says, “**Everyone who believes** in him will not be put to shame.”

¹² For there is no distinction between Jew and Greek; for the same Lord is Lord of all, bestowing his riches on **all who call** on him. ¹³ For “**everyone who calls** on the name of the Lord will be saved.”

¹⁴ **How then will they call** on him in whom they have not believed? And **how are they to believe** in him of whom they have never heard? And **how are they to hear** without someone preaching? ¹⁵ And **how are they to preach** unless they are sent? As it is written:

“How beautiful are the feet of those who preach the good news!”

Since the beginning of Paul’s **LETTER TO THE ROMANS**, ONE prevailing principle has re-occurred: the principle of “**faith / believing**.” It is faith in the **GOSPEL OF GOD** that saves us... not our religion, not our works, not effort. This applied to BOTH Jew and Gentile... no matter how unacceptable it was to the Jews, or how undeserved it was to the Gentiles.

No matter how hard some have tried, the idea of “**Sovereign Election**” is NOT supported by Paul in these 3-Chapters (**9, 10, 11**). In fact, if anything, the very basis of that doctrinal understanding is refuted by his arguments and proofs:

*The Jews WERE **God’s Chosen** people...*

*Israel WAS **God’s Chosen** Nation...*

*They WERE “**the Elect** People of God” ...*

BUT they are NOT saved (*nor are the Gentiles rejected*) because of ANY of those things.

ONLY one thing will bring “**righteousness / salvation**” ... **FAITH!**

To Everyone Who Believes

God has made salvation available for everyone. The gift of **JESUS: THE CHRIST, THE MESSIAH FOR THE WORLD** was God’s eternal solution to man’s need for righteousness. Many of the Jews “**stumbled**” over Him and were “**offended**” that the way to righteousness was by “**faith**” and not by their own works. The Gentiles found this message attractive, allowing them access to the righteousness God required, and they desired.

ROM 10:11-13 For the **SCRIPTURE** says, “**Everyone who believes** in him will not be put to shame.”

¹² For there is no distinction between **JEW** and **GREEK**; for the same **LORD** is **LORD** of all, bestowing his riches on **all who call** on him. ¹³ For “**everyone who calls** on the name of the **LORD** will be saved.”

➤ ¹¹ For the **SCRIPTURE** says, “**Everyone who believes** in him will not be put to shame.” [ISA 28:16]

- The “**Believing**” is the profession of our faith and confession of the agreement with God’s provision of Salvation through the Messiah...
- **Disgraced / Ashamed...** – to hide the face **seeing NO hope or good** in what you have sought, what has been promised, what you have longed for...

- It is GOD who secures our FAITH... – Unlike THE LAW where our confidence is in the “weakness of our own effort”
- ¹² For there is no distinction between JEW and GREEK; for the same LORD is LORD of all, bestowing His riches on all who call on Him.
- The righteousness which God imparts is open without distinction to all who express faith, whether they are Jews or Gentiles.
 - His saving mercy is lavished with “undistinguishing regard”: ALL who call will receive...
 - In ROMANS 3:22 the words “there is no distinction” were a grim sentence, because they convict JEWS and GENTILES together of sin against God and their incapacity to win his acceptance by personal effort or work...
 - HERE the same words are a joyful proclamation to JEWS and GENTILES together that God’s mercy is available to ALL - that free pardon is assured in Christ to all who claim it by faith
- Bestowing His riches... –
 - “Constantly being rich...” – One whose wealth flows out to others in need...
 - EPH 3:8 *To me, though I am the very least of all the saints, this grace was given, to preach to the Gentiles the unsearchable riches of Christ...*
 - EPH 1:18 *“...having the eyes of your hearts enlightened, that you may know a) what is the hope to which he has called you, b) what are the riches of his glorious inheritance in the saints, ¹⁹ and c) what is the immeasurable greatness of his power toward us who believe,*
- The ONLY requirement and the access to this incredible blessing: *To CALL upon HIM “in faith”*
- ¹³ For “everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved.” [JOEL 2:32]
 - “who calls on the NAME...” – Faith is implied by the act of CALLING...
 - The “calling” is “on the NAME of the LORD” – NOT calling for help / deliverance / rescue ...
 - The “NAME of the LORD” implies a recognition that THIS salvation has been made available according to His revealed plan / purpose / action / AND offer...

ROMANS LESSON 71 PART 2: WHO HAS BELIEVED?

How?

How then will they call on him in whom they have not believed? And how are they to believe in him of whom they have never heard? And how are they to hear without someone preaching?¹⁵ And how are they to preach unless they are sent? As it is written:

“How beautiful are the feet of those who preach the good news!”

How can people be saved? Do THEY have a part to play, or is it ALL by God’s election? IF they need “faith” to be saved, HOW do they get it?

- ¹⁴ HOW then will they call on him in whom they have not believed?

They cannot CALL upon Him if they Don't believe (have faith) in The Message of Salvation...
They do not CALL because they are CHOSEN...
They are NOT Chosen TO Believe ... They are Chosen BECAUSE the Believe...

➤ **And HOW are they to believe in him of whom they have never heard?**
And they cannot believe the Message of Salvation if they have never heard it...
Faith is not GIVEN to them... They HEAR and BELIEVE...
2-separate actions: See vs 16

➤ **And HOW are they to hear without someone preaching?**
And they cannot HEAR the Message of Salvation unless someone is proclaiming it...
The Message does not come with it being conveyed to them... NOT by passive choice

➤ ¹⁵ **And HOW are they to preach unless they are sent?**
And they cannot proclaim it unless they are authorized to do so...

MATT 28:19 *“Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit...”*

MARK 16:15-16 *And he said to them, “Go into all the world and proclaim the gospel to the whole creation. 16 Whoever believes and is baptized will be saved, but whoever does not believe will be condemned.*

ACTS 1:8 *But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you, and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth.”*

As it is written...

“How beautiful are the feet of those who preach the good news!”

ISA 52:6-7 Therefore my people shall KNOW my name. Therefore, in that day they shall KNOW that it is I who speak; HERE I AM.”

How beautiful upon the mountains are the feet of him who brings good news, who publishes peace, who brings good news of happiness, who publishes salvation, who says to Zion, “YOUR GOD REIGNS.”

Isaiah's prophetic words to the future *“Captives in Babylon”* would be proclaimed like a Triumphant Shout: HERE I AM... YOUR GOD REIGNS!

These words of release, restoration, recovery, and return would be like received like a long-awaited messenger bringing News of Joy from across the mountains...

“We have waited... Here it is!”

They would greet the messenger with open hearts, gifts, and celebrations... anointing his feet with oils of gladness for the message he has brought.

So should the Gospel be received by those to whom it is proclaimed...
AND it must be proclaimed even in the face of rejection and unbelief.

THEY HAVE NOT ALL OBEYED

ROM 10:16-18 *But they have not all obeyed THE GOSPEL. For Isaiah says, “Lord, who has believed what he has heard from us?”¹⁷ So faith comes from hearing, and hearing through the word of Christ.*

¹⁸ *But I ask, have they not heard? Indeed, they have, for... "Their voice has gone out to all the earth, and their words to the ends of the world."*

➤ ¹⁶ *But they have not all obeyed THE GOSPEL. For ISAIAH says, [ISA 53:1]
"Lord, who has believed what he has heard from us?"*

EPH 1:13 *In Him you also, when you heard the Word of Truth, the Gospel of your salvation, and believed in Him, were sealed with the promised Holy Spirit...*

➤ ¹⁷ *So, faith comes from hearing, and hearing through the Word of [about the] Christ. The faith to be saved comes from Hearing the Gospel (NOT from "Election" by God...) They cannot have faith to be saved unless someone presents the "Word about The Messiah: His death, resurrection, and ascension."*

Faith to be saved is NOT a result of God's Sovereign Election... that is, given ONLY to those whom He has Chosen...

➤ ¹⁸ *But I ask, have they not heard? Indeed, they have, for... [PSALM 19:4]
"Their voice has gone out to all the earth, and their words to the ends of the world."*

1 THESS 1:8 *For not only has the word of the Lord sounded forth from you in Macedonia and Achaia, but your faith in God has gone forth everywhere, so that we need not say anything.*

COL 1:5-6 *"... because of the hope laid up for you in heaven. Of this you have heard before in THE WORD OF THE TRUTH, THE GOSPEL,"⁶ which has come to you, as indeed in the whole world it is bearing fruit and increasing—as it also does among you, since the day you heard it and understood the grace of God in truth...*

The problem is NOT in the proclamation... It has been made... And it has been received by many!

IT DEPENDS ON RESPONSE

ROM 10:19-21 *But I ask, did ISRAEL not understand? First MOSES says, "I will make you jealous of those who are not a nation; with a foolish nation I will make you angry."²⁰ Then ISAIAH is so bold as to say, "I have been found by those who did not seek me; I have shown myself to those who did not ask for me."²¹ But of ISRAEL he says, "All day long I have held out my hands to a disobedient and contrary people."*

While it was true that since the Day of Pentecost multitudes of Jews had heard and believed... finding Salvation through faith in their Promised Messiah, Jesus... A greater number did NOT

Consider the reaction to Paul and Barnabas in Antioch in Pisidia:

ACTS 13:23-47 (vs 46) *And Paul and Barnabas spoke out boldly, saying, "It was necessary that the word of God be spoken first to you. Since you thrust it aside and JUDGE YOURSELVES unworthy of Eternal Life, behold, we are turning to the Gentiles.*

➤ ¹⁹ *But I ask, did ISRAEL not understand? First MOSES says... [DEUT 32:21]
"I will make you jealous of those who are not a nation... with a foolish nation I will make you angry."*

From the foundation of their Nation, God knew they would be resistant to His plan Israel's refusal DID NOT hinder God ...

NOR would He change His plan because of their resistance...

- ²⁰ *Then ISAIAH is so bold as to say... [ISA 65:1]*
“I have been found by those who did not seek me... I have shown myself to those who did not ask for me.”
Although the Gentiles did not seek God... HE SOUGHT THEM...
- ²¹ *But of ISRAEL he says... [ISA 65:2]*
“All day long I have held out my hands to a disobedient and contrary people.”
God’s Love and His Longsuffering desire for the Jewish People was unabated by their resistance, hardness, and disobedience... He STILL sent the Messiah to the Jews FIRST...