

### PREVIOUSLY CONSIDERED...

- The Jewish Calling | Romans 8:28-32
- The Jewish Security | Romans 8:33-39
- Paul's Passion for the Jews | Romans 9:1-3
- Assumed Objections and Paul's Response | Romans 9:6-17
- Another Assumed Objection: about Election | Romans 9:18-29

### A COMPARISON WITH THE GENTILES | ROMANS 9:30-33

*Note: the word Gentile is always an interpretation and the student of the Word should carefully discern whether the author intends to mean "non-Jew" or "nations," which can be inclusive or even exclusively Jewish (as in v. 24).*

- Verse 30 –
  - Having established that Israel was secure in its future place in prophecy, Paul now turns to the discussion of the nations in the age of Grace. Here he makes a clear distinction between *the nations* and the nation of Israel (v. 31). Thus, having explained the status of the nation of Israel in prophecy, now he establishes the current status of Israel in salvation, and shows that these are two very different things.
  - The status of *the nations* is that, though they **followed not after righteousness** (which is defined in the Law), they nonetheless **attained to righteousness** by faith, which is the *only* standard for attaining Christ's righteousness today.
- Verse 31 –
  - **Israel** (speaking nationally) is *following after* (more literal than **followed after** since the verb is in the present, active, participle form) law-based righteousness but did not and has not come to that righteous state. Paul will clarify in Romans 11:7 that the remnant/chosen election of Israel has obtained, not by works, but by grace.
  - *Note: many replacement and covenant theologians use Israel's current unrighteousness in an attempt to prove that Israel is no longer God's chosen nation. The behavior of Israel today is unrelated to her chosen status and is clearly outlined in the Bible, where the nation is portrayed as an enemy to the Gospel (Rom. 10:28).*
- Verses 32-33 –
  - The **stumblingstone** is Christ Himself (see 1 Cor 1:23, Luke 2:34).
  - Israel was warned that there would be a **rock of offence**, but removed that point from their Messianic theology.
  - Theology matters! Had they incorporated the Isaiah 28:16 prophecy into their Messianic expectations, they would not have been caught off-guard.

### THE JEWISH CONDITION AND PAUL'S PASSION | ROMANS 10:1-4

- Verse 1 –
  - Paul states, unequivocally, that Israel today is not **saved**, but that this is his **heart's desire and prayer**.
  - He is still talking about the same Israel as in 9:1-4, the Israel that is his **kinsmen according to the flesh** (and is the *only* Israel).

- As in 9:31, there are many who claim that Christians should not be pro-Israel because Israel has rejected Jesus Christ (i.e.: they are not saved). But every Christian Zionist knows that Israel is not saved, and has the same **heart's desire and prayer** for Israel. Those who decry Zionism based on Israel's rejection of Christ will promote the love of Islamic nations precisely because they are not saved, while promoting the disregard (or hatred) for Israel because they are not saved.
- Verse 2 –
  - Having **zeal** that is **not according to knowledge** will make you admirable in zeal but not in outcome.
  - This statement specifically relates to Israel's spiritual condition. This condition is a "head-start" from many nations that have neither zeal nor knowledge of God, but still leaves the nation in a lost condition.
  - The church today should be far more concerned with creating knowledge than with creating zeal, but it seems that zeal is the desire.
- Verse 3 –
  - The term **being ignorant** is the clarification of the words of the previous verse, **not according to knowledge**. Ignorance is ἀγνοέω [agnoeo] (without knowledge) and **according to knowledge** is ἐπίγνωσις [epignosis] (upon knowledge), both built on the root word γινώσκω [gnosko] (to know).
  - In ignorance, the Jews are seeking to **establish their own righteousness**, based on the law. This is a human trait, not specific to the Jews, and can be characteristic of ignorant Christians as well.
  - Philippians 3:9 tells us where righteousness should come from.
- Verse 4 – The Greek τέλος [telos] is the *ultimate, the farthest reach*. **Christ** is the *farthest reach, the ultimate end of the law*. But His **righteousness** is only for **every one that believeth**.