

Study in Romans

Doctrine > God's Plan for Israel > Divine Sovereignty in Israel's Present >
Zeal for God Is Not Enough
Romans 10:1-4

Having discussed God's sovereignty in Israel's past rejection of Him and His Messiah, Paul now turns his attention to their present and God's sovereign work in the current state of the Jewish people. He reminds us again of his heart of love and concern for them that they may be saved. They are very enthusiastic for the God of their forefathers, but that zeal is not based on the **full** revelation of God to them through the Scriptures. Rather, they had constructed a religious framework of their own and were trusting in it for personal righteousness before God.

Paul then gives us one of the more famous verses in Romans, namely, verse 4, "Christ is the end of the law for righteousness to everyone who believes." I used to think this meant that the law had failed and God was tossing it aside in favor of trust in Jesus. That is not what Paul means, however. Instead, the idea of "end of the law," means, "goal," or "purpose" of the law. Christ has fulfilled the law; He has accomplished its purpose. It is "game over" in Christ. Anyone who personally participates with Him by faith is included in this victory and is counted by God as being righteous. This is what Jesus means by saying on the cross, "It is finished!"

1. Paul's heart of concern for the Jews, part deux (v. 1)
2. Israel's zeal not according to knowledge (v. 2)
3. Israel's righteousness not according to God's plan (v. 3)
4. Critical knowledge that Israel missed (v. 4)