Study in Romans

Doctrine > God's Plan for Israel > Divine Sovereignty in Israel's Present > Righteousness by Faith is Accessible to All People

Romans 10:5-13

Beginning in chapter nine, Paul has established that access to God's righteousness by imputation and justification by faith is available only to those who place their faith in Jesus Christ. When the nation of Israel rejected Him as their Messiah, however, it is not that God's plan expressed in the Scriptures failed. Rather, their rejection was part of His plan. They sought to turn His law into an opportunity to earn their own righteousness and in so doing stumbled over the Stumbling Stone (Christ). Faith in Jesus' completed work of atonement is the end of all religious effort. There is no longer any condemnation and therefore no longer any need to strive to overcome sin with good behavior.

This is not say that all Israelites are in the same boat; they are not. Thankfully, God has provided His promise of eternal life in the New Covenant to both Jew and Gentile alike. In this section, Paul personifies faith and quotes from the OT to contrast the righteousness of the law with that of faith. His point is to show that God has done everything possible to make it accessible to everyone and simple enough that even a child can understand and believe. In chapter nine, we saw God's sovereign part in the Gospel. In this chapter, we see mankind's responsibility to submit to His message.

1. The accessibility of righteousness by faith (vv. 5-8; cf. Rom. 8:3, Lev. 18:5 and Deut. 30:11-14)

2. The message of righteousness by faith (vv. 9-10; cf. Rom. 8:11)

    a. Outward manifestation of saving faith = confession of Jesus as King of all

    b. Inward manifestation of saving faith = belief in Jesus as Savior from sin

3. The promise of righteousness by faith (v. 11; cf. 9:33, Is. 28:16 and 49:23)

4. The availability of righteousness by faith (vv. 12-13; cf. Joel 2:32)