The Righteousness of God
LESSON 15 – OUTLINE

1. Paul began Romans 9 lamenting the fact that the Jewish people were trusting in their own righteousness to produce salvation.

   A. Instead of receiving the free gift of God through Jesus, they were trying to earn salvation.

   B. They didn’t want to come and be dependent on Christ, the Savior.

   C. They were trusting in their own goodness instead.

2. At the end of Romans 9, Paul made a summary of the things he’d said thus far, and transitioned into chapter 10.

   “What shall we say then? That the Gentiles, which followed not after righteousness, have attained to righteousness, even the righteousness which is of faith. But Israel, which followed after the law of righteousness, hath not attained to the law of righteousness” (Rom. 9:30-31).

   A. Paul came along and thoroughly rattled these people’s religious cage by saying that the Gentiles (non-Jew, pagan, and heathen) had received by faith what the Jews were working so hard to attain by their actions.

   B. No wonder Paul upset the religious people wherever he went!

   C. It’s the reason why anyone who preaches the true Gospel of God still suffers persecution even today (Gal. 5:11 and 6:12).

   D. The grace of God is offensive to religious folks!

3. The reason why the non-religious have become accepted by God and the religious remain rejected is because the non-religious sought righteousness by faith in God’s grace and the religious sought it by faith in their own holy actions.

   “Wherefore? [Why? Why is this true? How could this be?] Because they [the religious Jews] sought it [righteousness] not by faith, but as it were by the works of the law. For they stumbled at that stumblingstone” (Rom. 9:32, brackets mine).

   A. When the heathen heard the Gospel—that salvation was a gift and they didn’t have to earn it—they embraced it.

   B. To them, it was very beneficial because they hadn’t been living a proper life, and they knew it.
C. The religious person rejected Jesus for basically the same reasons—the Gospel told them it wasn’t their goodness that earned them relationship with God but rather believing on Jesus and receiving salvation as a gift.

D. Religious pride won’t let them receive a free gift like that.

4. The exact same thing happens all around the world today.

A. For people who are putting their faith in their actions instead of receiving salvation as a gift, it’s offensive to hear the Gospel preached.

B. For people who are trusting in themselves, it’s upsetting to listen to somebody say that someone could not be living as holy as they are but receives from God better because they’re putting faith in a Savior instead of earning it.

C. Good people trusting in their own holiness are the most difficult to reach with the Gospel of the Lord Jesus Christ.

D. The Gospel sounds to them like all their great righteousness has been to no avail.

5. Romans 9:32 says that these religious people didn’t receive righteousness because they sought it not by faith, but by the works of the Law.

A. Works of the Law refers to doing good things but with the wrong motive.

B. A work of the Law is when you’re doing something with the mindset that this is going to earn you relationship with God.

C. A work of faith may be the exact same action as a work of the Law, but the mindset behind it is, I’m not doing this to earn relationship with God, but because God has already given me relationship with Himself. I love Him and want to serve Him.

D. Works of faith are motivated by faith and love, not a sense of obligation and debt.

6. These Jews were doing the right things with the wrong motive, so they stumbled over the stumbling stone (Is. 8:14 and 28:16).

“As it is written, Behold, I lay in Sion a stumblingstone and rock of offence: and whosoever believeth on him [Jesus Christ] shall not be ashamed” (Rom. 9:33, brackets mine).

A. In other words, Jesus Christ is planted right in the path of every single person.
B. Some respond properly by faith and receive the Lord and His precious gift of salvation, but others try to maintain their own goodness and stumble over the grace of God.

C. Either you accept the truth and it becomes liberating and life giving, or you deny it and it becomes damning—it’s your choice.

7. Having the right knowledge is more important than having the right actions.

   “Brethren, my heart’s desire and prayer to God for Israel is, that they might be saved. For I bear them record that they have a zeal of God, but not according to knowledge” (Rom. 10:1-2).

   A. These religious people had a zeal for God; however, it wasn’t according to knowledge.

   B. They were sincere, but sincerely wrong because they believed the wrong thing.

8. There are two different kinds of righteousness: God’s righteousness and self-righteousness.

   “For they being ignorant of God’s righteousness, and going about to establish their own righteousness, have not submitted themselves unto the righteousness of God” (Rom. 10:3).

   A. We obtain self-righteousness by trusting in our own actions.

   B. We receive God’s righteousness by faith in Jesus Christ (Eph. 2:8-9).

   C. The only righteousness that will put us in right standing and relationship with God is the righteousness of God that is given to us as a free, unearned gift.

   D. Most people are seeking after a righteousness that comes based on their own works and performance.

   E. In our born-again spirits, we are the righteousness of God in Christ Jesus (2 Cor. 5:21).

      i. We don’t become righteous gradually as we improve our actions—we’re born again righteous.

      ii. It’s a gift!
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LESSON 15 – DISCIPLESHIP QUESTIONS

1. Which chapter describes the normal—Spirit-empowered—Christian life?
   A. Romans 7.
   B. Romans 8.
   C. Romans 9.

2. Which chapter describes the frustration of trying to serve God out of our own human ability—flesh?
   A. Romans 7.
   B. Romans 8.
   C. Romans 9.

3. According to Romans 9:30-31, who followed not after righteousness, but had attained it by faith?
   A. The Gentiles (heathen, non-religious).
   B. The Jews (Israel, religious).

4. Who followed after the Law, but had not attained righteousness?
   A. The Gentiles (heathen, non-religious).
   B. The Jews (Israel, religious).

5. According to Galatians 5:11 and 6:12, what does everyone who preaches the true Gospel still suffer even today?

6. What did the religious people stumble over in Romans 9:32?

7. They sought righteousness not by faith, but by what?

8. According to Romans 3:23, who has sinned and come short of the glory of God?

9. What kind of work does 1 Thessalonians 1:3 and 2 Thessalonians 1:11 speak of?

10. How is Jesus described in Romans 9:33 for those who seek not righteousness by faith?

11. What does Isaiah 8:14 reveal that the Messiah to come will be to both houses of Israel?

12. What does Isaiah 28:16 say that the Lord God would lay in Zion?

13. According to Romans 10:1-3, what was Paul’s heart desire and prayer for Israel?

14. What did Israel have?

15. But not according to what?
16. What were they ignorant of?

17. What were they going about to establish?

18. They had not submitted themselves unto what?

19. According to Ephesians 2:8-9, we are saved how?

20. Is salvation a gift or something we earn by our works?

21. According to 2 Corinthians 5:21, what was Jesus made for us?

22. What were we made the instant we were born again?

23. How does Isaiah 64:6 describe all of our self-righteousness?
“What shall we say then? That the Gentiles, which followed not after righteousness, have attained to righteousness, even the righteousness which is of faith. But Israel, which followed after the law of righteousness, hath not attained to the law of righteousness. Wherefore? Because they sought it not by faith, but as it were by the works of the law. For they stumbled at that stumblingstone; As it is written, Behold, I lay in Sion a stumblingstone and rock of offence: and whosoever believeth on him shall not be ashamed” (Rom. 9:30-33).

“Brethren, my heart’s desire and prayer to God for Israel is, that they might be saved. For I bear them record that they have a zeal of God, but not according to knowledge. For they being ignorant of God’s righteousness, and going about to establish their own righteousness, have not submitted themselves unto the righteousness of God” (Rom. 10:1-3).

“And I, brethren, if I yet preach circumcision, why do I yet suffer persecution? then is the offence of the cross ceased” (Gal. 5:11).

“As many as desire to make a fair shew in the flesh, they constrain you to be circumcised; only lest they should suffer persecution for the cross of Christ” (Gal. 6:12).

“For all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God” (Rom. 3:23).

“Remembering without ceasing your work of faith, and labour of love, and patience of hope in our Lord Jesus Christ, in the sight of God and our Father” (1 Thess. 1:3).

“Wherefore also we pray always for you, that our God would count you worthy of this calling, and fulfil all the good pleasure of his goodness, and the work of faith with power” (2 Thess. 1:11).

“And he shall be for a sanctuary; but for a stone of stumbling and for a rock of offence to both the houses of Israel, for a gin and for a snare to the inhabitants of Jerusalem” (Is. 8:14).

“Therefore thus saith the Lord GOD, Behold, I lay in Zion for a foundation a stone, a tried stone, a precious corner stone, a sure foundation: he that believeth shall not make haste” (Is. 28:16).

“For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of God: Not of works, lest any man should boast” (Eph. 2:8-9).
“For he hath made him to be sin for us, who knew no sin; that we might be made the righteousness of God in him” (2 Cor. 5:21).

“But we are all as an unclean thing, and all our righteousnesses are as filthy rags; and we all do fade as a leaf; and our iniquities, like the wind, have taken us away” (Is. 64:6).