



Coptic Orthodox Diocese of the Southern United States



# The Letter of St. Paul to the Romans

## Chapter 10

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# Introduction

- St. Paul continues to explain God's dealings with the nation of Israel
- As a nation they had plenty of zeal, but not according to knowledge
- The righteousness God now offers is based upon faith in Christ
- The day would come when God would provoke Israel to jealousy by another people

# Israel's Refusal of God's Righteousness (10:1-15)



- He would not have prayed for this, had they been absolutely rejected
- They were religious and zealous but mistaken and fanatical
- They had no knowledge of God's plan of righteousness, righteousness by believing upon Christ
- By rejecting it they sought a righteousness of their own, of works, secured by keeping the law

# Israel's Refusal of God's Righteousness (10:1-15)



- The whole law pointed to Christ, and His righteousness.
- He who believes (Jewish or gentile) submits to God's plan of righteousness
- The law itself is against the law as a means of securing righteousness (Lev 18:5)
- That righteousness requires a perfect obedience, a sinless life
- What Jew could say that he had never sinned?

# Israel's Refusal of God's Righteousness (10:1-15)



- St. Paul modifies (Deut 30:11-14) in order to bring out more strongly its spiritual application
- It was first applied to certain commands addressed by Moses to Israel, but in reality its spirit applies to the gospel
- Bring down Christ from heaven, where you say He is, and we will believe upon Him
- Another stumbling block with the Jews was the death and burial of Christ

# Israel's Refusal of God's Righteousness (10:1-15)



- They still demand that they should see the Risen Christ with their own eyes
- What does God's righteousness demand?
- We do not have to go either to heaven or to Hades to lay hold of salvation
- The Word (Logos), whom we preach is near you
- To openly confess Christ in those days of persecution was a trial of faith of the severest kind



# Israel's Refusal of God's Righteousness (10:1-15)



- The belief must not be only a mental consent, but a belief that brings the whole man into loving trust and obedience to Christ (Rom 1: 5)
- Such confessed faith imparts to us the righteousness of those who have died to sin
- This faith influences the actions and brings us into the obedience of faith (righteousness)
- This faith must be shown in an open confession; to be saved. The whole Christian life is a confession

# Israel's Refusal of God's Righteousness (10:1-15)



- Heart is the internal life and the mouth is the external one
- The Scripture has predicted a salvation by faith, (Isa 28:16)
- It is for Greeks (Gentiles), as well as Jews
- The same Lord over all is rich unto all that call upon him, of whatever race (Joe 2:32)
- Calling is more than saying "Lord Lord"



# Israel's Refusal of God's Righteousness (10:1-15)



- The Jews were against preaching to the gentiles
- So, after we know that it is God's economy to save the gentiles, how could they call upon the Lord without faith?
- No faith without having heard of Him
- Christ must be preached to them
- Hence, Christ sent the Apostles to preach the whole world (Isa 52:7) (Nahum 1:15)



# Israel's Neglect of The Gospel (10:16-21)

- But many are in unbelief, and hence do not obey the gospel
- Note that the gospel must be obeyed
- This need not surprise us, for Isaiah predicted this also (Isa 53:1)
- So then faith comes by hearing the word of God, hence the need for preaching
- The opportunity to hear has been very widely extended (Psalm 19:4)



# Israel's Neglect of The Gospel (10:16-21)

- The Jews may object “if the Gospel has been extended so widely, why is the greater portion of Israel in ignorance that the Gentiles were to be saved?
- Moses foretells the call of another people to the favor of God (Deut 32:21)
- Isaiah still more plainly predicts the salvation of the Gentiles (Isa 65:1)
- He also predicts the falling away of Israel (Isa 65:2).



# Conclusion

- What is Israel's problem that prevents them from being saved?
- What does the phrase "*Christ is the end of the law*" (verse:4) mean?
- What is the difference between the righteousness of the Old Testament and the New Testament?
- According to verses 6-10, how does faith bring salvation?



# Conclusion

- Is faith, as described in verses 9-10, only mental acknowledgement of the truth?
- Which verses from this chapter prove that faith and salvation were never limited to the Jews only or the gentiles only?
- What steps did God lead the unresponsive people of Israel through in order for them to reach salvation?
- Why did God forsake Israel and manifest His salvation to the gentiles?