

***Sovereign Election: Human Responsibility***  
***Romans 9:30-10:21***

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**Getting Started**

- ❖ Are there people, or groups of people, who deep down you think will never turn to Christ? Why do you think that?
- ❖ Was there a time in your life when you “stumbled over Christ” and couldn’t accept Him or reconcile Christianity to your beliefs? Describe what that time was like, why you thought that way and what changed.

**Digging Deeper**

- ❖ **Read the entirety of the sermon text, Romans 9:30-10:21.**
  - Israel did not “attain righteousness”---- they had not ended up being in right relationship with God. Why not according to 9:30-10:3?
  - What do the first four verses reveal about Paul and the Israelites of his day?
  - What does vs.4 say is the way in which God has made it possible to be right with Him?
  - How does Moses say a person could be saved in vs. 5? What is the problem with seeking to be saved this way?
  - What does Paul say about a different way to be saved in verse 8?
  - What does Paul say more specifically about this different way to be saved now that Jesus has lived, died and risen? (vss.9-13)
  - Ironically, some have interpreted and applied verses 9-13 in a way that creates another form of works salvation. How could you misinterpret these verses so that works (“I must do”) creeps in? How should the gospel of grace shape our understanding of these verses so they aren’t twisted into more “doism”?
  - What should the truths of vss. 9-13 lead believers to do in vss.14-15? Why?
  - Verse 17 tell us that “faith comes by hearing”. Based on this verse, why isn’t living out the gospel before unbelievers or “relationship evangelism” where we let “our lives speak for us” sufficient? What is the right place for these tactics in evangelism? What is the right balance?
  - In vss.16-21, Paul returns to his original question: “Why haven’t the Jews believed?” What possibilities does he raise, and how does he answer them in: vs.18? vs.19-20? What is the right answer in vs.21?
- ❖ **Applying this passage to Our Lives:**
  - God has sent us with the message of salvation. He may send us overseas, into the pulpit, or across the street to our neighbor. But ours are the beautiful feet, bringing good news in vs.15. Do you count it a privilege to be a part of the way God saves people? How could you have “beautiful feet”, sharing good news this week?
  - Are you naturally someone who needs to add zeal to your knowledge or knowledge to your zeal?
  - Have you realized that faith in Christ means the end of any reliance on law-keeping for your security? What difference does this make to you?
  - Much was said this week and the last two weeks on God’s sovereignty and Human responsibility. How does the biblical framework of God’s sovereignty and our responsibility redefine our conceptions of: 1) human liberty, 2) what is fair, 3) sense of identity?

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**Think About It!**

*He rules His creation with absolute sovereignty and authority. He governs everything that comes to pass, from the greatest to the least. Nothing ever happens beyond the scope of His sovereign providential government. He makes the rain to fall and the sun to shine. He raises up kingdoms and brings them down. He numbers the hairs on our head and the days of our life. (R.C. Sproul)*

*Yet the fact of free agency confronts us with mystery, inasmuch as God's control over our free, self-determined activities is as complete as it is over anything else, and how this can be we do not know. Regularly, however, God exercises his sovereignty by letting things take their course, rather than by miraculous intrusions of a disruptive sort. (J.I. Packer)*

**Praying Together**

Spend time in prayer for one another's most pressing needs and for those who you would like God to use you to reach for Christ. Let's remember those being most affected by Covid-19 and pray for our leaders to guide us well through this crisis.

(Note: In this year's study of Romans, our study questions are being inspired by or derived from books, commentaries and bible studies authored by: Pastors Matt Smith, Max Lucado, John MacArthur, R.C. Sproul, Jack Hayford and Tim Keller.)