

### Faith in Christ vs the "Works of the Law"

Rom 9.30 What shall we say then? That Gentiles, who did not pursue righteousness, have attained to righteousness, even the righteousness of faith; 31 but Israel, pursuing the law of righteousness, has not attained to the law of righteousness. 32 Why? Because they did not seek it by faith, but as it were, by the works of the law. For they stumbled at that stumbling stone. 33 As it is written: "Behold, I lay in Zion a stumbling stone and rock of offense, and whoever believes on Him will not be put to shame."

\* **Paul is facing** head on the question of how can the crazy state of affairs regarding Israel in his day be explained, because everything is upside down from what you would expect.

#### - Gentiles

- **What** biblical doctrine covers God's declaration of righteousness?

Deut 25.1 ... judges ... justify the righteous and condemn the wicked ...

- **How** does God manage to declare sinners righteous?

John 8.29 ... "I always do those things that please Him [i.e., the Father]."

Phil 2.8 ... He ... became obedient to ... death, even the death of the cross.

2Cor 5.21 For He made Him who knew no sin to be sin for us, that we might become the righteousness of God in Him.

Gal 2.16 ... we have believed in Christ Jesus, that we might be justified by the faith of Christ ... [i.e., His faith in and faithfulness to the Father]

Heb 12.2 ... Jesus, the author and finisher of our faith, who for the joy that was set before Him endured the cross ... and has sat down at the right hand of the throne of God.

Eph 2.4 But God, who is rich in mercy, because of His great love with which He loved us, 5 even when we were dead in trespasses, made us alive together with Christ (by grace you have been saved),

#### - Israelites

\* **Paul tell us**, big picture, two things:

- **1) Israel** \_\_\_\_\_ over Jesus the Messiah, the promised Seed of Abraham (vs 33 quoting Isa 8.14 and 28.16).

Isaiah 8.13 The LORD of hosts ... 14 ... will be as a sanctuary, But a stone of stumbling and a rock of offense To both the houses of Israel ...

Isaiah 28.16 ... thus says the Lord GOD, "Behold, I am laying in Zion a stone, a tested stone, A costly cornerstone for the foundation, firmly placed. He who believes in it will not be disturbed.

- **2) Israel** was predisposed to be offended by Jesus because of their wrong approach to the \_\_\_\_\_ (31-32).

\* **How do we** typically understand vs 31-32?

\* **Under that view**, Israel got Christ wrong, because she was on the wrong road, the law road of trying to \_\_\_\_\_ her salvation, thus leading her away from \_\_\_\_\_.

\* **What Paul is** actually saying is that Israel got the \_\_\_\_\_ wrong and Christ wrong, because they both required the \_\_\_\_\_ of Abraham, which Israel lacked.

\* **The law as** given was the road pointing and leading directly to \_\_\_\_\_ for all who had the \_\_\_\_\_ of Abraham. But for those who lacked that faith, the heart of the law, what it was all about, was \_\_\_\_\_. So they mangled, misinterpreted, and misapplied the \_\_\_\_\_ in a way that set them up to take \_\_\_\_\_ at Christ.

\* **We typically read** vs 31 as though it said, "Israel, pursuing the law \_\_\_\_\_ righteousness, did not attain to righteousness." But what Paul is really saying is that Israel did not even get the \_\_\_\_\_ right, because she did not seek it by \_\_\_\_\_.

\* **When Paul says** "by faith," he is not talking about a general faith in the one true God, but a faith like Abraham's, one that trusts in the promises of God concerning the \_\_\_\_\_ of Abraham.

\* **In vs 32**, "as it were" is Paul's way of basically putting quotation \_\_\_\_\_ around "works of the law," thus indicating that they were not really what the law contemplated and required, but only what the scribes and Pharisees \_\_\_\_\_ it did.

**\* What did Jesus** accuse the scribes and Pharisees of?

Mar 7.2 Now when they [the scribes and Pharisees] saw some of His disciples eat bread with defiled, that is, with unwashed hands, they found fault.

3 For the Pharisees and all the Jews do not eat unless they wash their hands in a special way, holding the tradition of the elders. 4 When they come from the marketplace, they do not eat unless they wash. And there are many other things which they have received and hold, like the washing of cups, pitchers, copper vessels, and couches. 5 Then the Pharisees and scribes asked Him, "Why do Your disciples not walk according to the tradition of the elders, but eat bread with unwashed hands?" 6 He answered and said to them, "Well did Isaiah prophesy of you hypocrites, as it is written: 'This people honors Me with their lips, But their heart is far from Me. 7 And in vain they worship Me, Teaching as doctrines the commandments of men.' 8 For laying aside the commandment of God, you hold the tradition of men — the washing of pitchers and cups, and many other such things you do."

**\* How did the** apostle Peter sum up the effect of these traditions?

Act 10.28 Then [Peter] said to them, "You know how unlawful it is for a Jewish man to keep company with or go to one of another nation. But God has shown me that I should not call any man common or unclean."

**\* What did the** law actually provide?

Deut 16.10 Then you shall keep the Feast of Weeks ... 11 ... you and your son and your daughter, your male servant and your female servant, the Levite who is within your gates, the stranger [foreigner] and the fatherless and the widow who are among you ... 13 You shall observe the Feast of Tabernacles ... 14 ... you and your son and your daughter, your male servant and your female servant and the Levite, the stranger and the fatherless and the widow, who are within your gates.

Num 15.14 And if a stranger dwells with you ... and would present an offering ... to the LORD, just as you do, so shall he do. 15 One ordinance shall be for you of the assembly and for the stranger who dwells with you ...; as you are, so shall the stranger be before the LORD. 16 One law ... shall be for you and for the stranger who dwells with you.

**\* How exactly did** Israel's wrong approach to the law set her up to take offense at Jesus and his gospel?

Acts 21.27 [T]he Jews from Asia, seeing him [Paul] in the temple, stirred up the whole crowd and laid hands on him, 28 crying out, "Men of Israel, help! This is the man who teaches all men everywhere against the people, the law, and this place; and furthermore he also

brought Greeks into the temple and has defiled this holy place." 29 (For they had previously seen Trophimus the Ephesian with him in the city, whom they supposed that Paul had brought into the temple.) ... 31 Now as they were seeking to kill him, ... the commander of the garrison ... 32 ... took soldiers ... and ran down to them ... 37 Then as Paul was about to be led into the barracks, he said to the commander ... 39 ..., "I am a Jew from Tarsus ... and I implore you, permit me to speak to the people." 40 So when he had given him permission, Paul stood on the stairs and ... spoke to them ... 22.2 And when they heard that he spoke to them in the Hebrew language, they kept all the more silent. Then he said: 3 "I am indeed a Jew, born in Tarsus ..., but brought up in this city at the feet of Gamaliel, taught according to the strictness of our fathers' law, and was zealous toward God as you all are today. 4 I persecuted this Way to the death, binding and delivering into prisons both men and women, 5 as also the high priest bears me witness, ... from whom I also received letters ..., and went to Damascus to bring in chains ... those who were there to Jerusalem to be punished. 6 Now it happened, as I journeyed ..., suddenly a great light from heaven shone around me. 7 And I fell to the ground and heard a voice saying to me, 'Saul, Saul, why are you persecuting Me?' 8 So I answered, 'Who are You, Lord?' And He said to me, 'I am Jesus of Nazareth, whom you are persecuting.' ... 10 So I said, 'What shall I do, Lord?' And the Lord said to me, 'Arise and go into Damascus, and there you will be told all things which are appointed for you to do.' ... 12 Then a certain Ananias, a devout man according to the law ... 13 came ... and said to me ... 14 ..., 'The God of our fathers has chosen you that you should know His will, and see the Just One, and hear the voice of His mouth. 15 For you will be His witness to all men of what you have seen and heard ... 17 Now it happened, when I returned to Jerusalem and was praying in the temple, that I was in a trance 18 and saw Him saying to me, 'Make haste and get out of Jerusalem quickly, for they will not receive your testimony concerning Me. ... 21 ... Depart, for I will send you far from here to the Gentiles.' " 22 And they listened to him until this word, and then they raised their voices and said, "Away with such a fellow from the earth, for he is not fit to live!"

**\* How did Paul** correct this wrong approach in Rom 4?

Rom 4.3 For what does the Scripture say? "Abraham believed God, and it was accounted to him for righteousness." ... 10 How then was it accounted? While he was circumcised, or uncircumcised? Not while circumcised, but while uncircumcised. 11 And he received the sign of circumcision, a seal of the righteousness of the faith which he had while still uncircumcised, that he might be the father of all those who believe, though they are uncircumcised, that righteousness might be imputed to them also, 12 and the father of circumcision to those who not only are of the circumcision, but who also walk in the steps of the faith which our father Abraham had while still uncircumcised.