

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 dealing** with the ironic situation where everything is upside down from what you would expect.

- Vs 30 - 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?

- Vs 31 - Israelites

* **Paul tells us**, big picture, two things:

- 1) Israel _____ over Jesus the Messiah, the promised Seed of Abraham (vs 33 quoting Isa 8.14).

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

* **We typically** understand vs 31-32 to mean that the _____ and _____ were in opposition to one another.

* **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 as a whole lacked.

* **The law as** given was the road that led _____ Christ.

Rom 10.4 Christ is the end [Gr., telos] of the law for righteousness to everyone who believes.

- What does "end" mean?

* **Think about it:**

- When was the law given?

- What were the first words of the law?

Exo 20.2 "I am the LORD your God, who brought you out of the land of Egypt, out of the house of bondage."

- Who was the "LORD your God" that brought Israel out?

1Cor 10.4 all drank ... of that spiritual Rock that followed them, and that Rock was Christ.

- What was the crucial act that delivered Israel?

1Cor 5.7 Christ, our Passover, was sacrificed for us.

- Where do all the sacrifices of the law point?

Heb 10.11 [E]very priest stands ministering daily and offering repeatedly the same sacrifices, which can never take away sins. 12 But

this Man, after He had offered one sacrifice for sins forever, sat down at the right hand of God ... 14 For by one offering He has perfected forever those who are being sanctified.

- What was the purpose of the moral and spiritual commands of the law?

Mat 22.37 Jesus said to him, "You shall love the LORD your God with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your mind.' 38 This is the first and great commandment. 39 And the second is like it: 'You shall love your neighbor as yourself.' 40 On these two commandments hang all the Law and the Prophets."

- What was the purpose of the typological aspects of the law such as the dietary and cleanness code?

Gal 3.24 [T]he law was our tutor to bring us to Christ, that we might be justified by faith.

* **We typically read** vs 31 as though it says, "Israel, pursuing the law for 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 approach it by _____.

* **But those** who lacked the faith of Abraham mangled, misinterpreted, and misapplied the law in a way that set them up to take offense at _____.

* **In vs 32**, "as it were" is Paul's way of putting scare _____ around "works of the law." In other words, the "works of the law," falsely so called by the scribes and Pharisees.

Mk 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."

* **These "works of the law"** centered around creating greater separation between Jews and _____.

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."

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

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.

* **What was** Israel trusting in for righteousness instead of Christ?

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.

* **Behind all** of this is what kind of savior people think they need - a helping hand savior or a savior _____ and _____.