

THE BOOK OF ROMANS

THE GOSPEL ACCORDING TO GRACE.
THE FOUNDATION OF NEW TESTAMENT THEOLOGY.

Romans 9:30-33

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Sunday, May 26, 2024

THE TITLE OF THE MESSAGE:

WHAT DO YOU HAVE TO SAY ?

The Gospel of Grace. The Foundation of New Testament Theology
And How The Justified Shall Live by Faith in Jesus Christ Alone.

SUBJECT TOPICALLY REFERENCED UNDER:

Foreknowledge, Adoption, Sovereignty, Justification, Predestination, Election

Romans 9:30-33

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.”*

Romans 9:30-33 NLT

What does all this mean? Even though the Gentiles were not trying to follow God’s standards, they were made right with God. And it was by faith that this took place. ³¹ But the people of Israel, who tried so hard to get right with God by keeping the law, never succeeded. ³² Why not? Because they were trying to get right with God by keeping the law instead of by trusting in Him. They stumbled over the great Rock in their path. ³³ God warned them of this in the Scriptures when He said, *“I am placing a Stone in Jerusalem that makes people stumble, a Rock that makes them fall. But anyone who trusts in Him will never be disgraced.”*

Coming off the heels of our previous series of sermons titled;

“GOD’S GOOD - GOOD SOVEREIGNTY

We are now brought to the place of decision.

God's sovereignty is a divinely engineered attribute which in some degree has been given to each of us. This reality is both liberating and terrifying at the same time. – but here is the catch - The man or woman who understands that they have the responsibility of choice and the freedom to exercise what they desire – choice becomes a very troublesome thing when considering the reality of God's existence and our answering to Him in the end.

For those who do not know God, Living without Jesus seems to be a liberty and a freedom and a sovereignty that is actually nothing less than a profound imprisonment and slavery to self into sin.

What Do You Have To Say?

1.) Regarding Your Faith

vs. 30

1a.) What Do You Have To Say?

vs. 30a

What shall we say then?

Well, right out of the gate I'd like to tell you what Professor Albert Barnes had to say about verse 30.

“The fact that the Gospel has been extended to all nations, is proof that it is from heaven.”

- Albert Barnes 1830 - Philadelphia, Pennsylvania

What Do We Say Then / The Unwavering Witness of God

And what a crescendo to the doctrine of election based on predestination and all of it resting upon The foreknowledge of God.

“That the Just shall by Faith” – a Biblical Teaching and Comfort for Sure, is an Old Testament Prophesied Doctrine - - that was / is being fulfilled in This New Testament Era.

Romans 2:12-16

For as many as have sinned without law will also perish without law, and as many as have sinned in the law will be judged by the law **13** (for not the hearers of the law *are* just in the sight of God, but the doers of the law will be justified; **14** for when Gentiles, who do not have the law, by nature do the things in the law, these, although not having the law, are a law to themselves, **15** who show the work of the law written in their hearts, their conscience also bearing witness, and between themselves *their* thoughts accusing or else excusing *them*) **16** in the day when God will judge the secrets of men by Jesus Christ, according to my gospel.

Romans 10:8-10

But what does it say? “The word is near you, in your mouth and in your heart” (that is, the word of faith which we preach): **9** that if you confess with your mouth the Lord Jesus and believe in your heart that God has raised Him from the dead, you will be saved. **10** For with the heart one believes unto righteousness, and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation.

What Do You Have To Say? **REGARDING YOUR FAITH**

1b.) What Are You Looking For?

vs. 30b

That Gentiles, who did not pursue righteousness, have attained to righteousness...

pursue	grk: dioko to strive for or to seek after, the act of hunting prey, to go after with all of your being, in desperate pursuit of a desired end, conclusion.
righteousness	grk: dikaiosune rightness or justification, made acceptable before God, to be made right
attained	grk: phthano to come before (another), to anticipate, arrive, to come upon. the imaginary is that of one coming across or “stumbling upon” a treasure or a find. being surprised or startled by discovering.

A Disclaimer is Necessary Here:

I confess, I hold to two different interpretations to the following Parable.
(I am going to wait and see how it turns out and then I'll tell you which one if not both was correct)

Matthew 13:44-45

“Again, the kingdom of heaven is like treasure hidden in a field, which a man found and hid; and for joy over it he goes and sells all that he has and buys that field. **45** “Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a merchant seeking beautiful pearls, **46** who, when he had found one pearl of great price, went and sold all that he had and bought it.

#1 Is the Traditional view?

It is that the “man” is a lost sinner who finds the gospel - finds a pearl of great price and does all, gives all, sells all to get it and in getting it – gets the kingdom.

#2 Is an Alternative view?

It is that the “man” is Jesus Himself who gives up all of heaven to come to gain your soul and mine by His work at the cross – to Him, we are the pearl of great price.

“Notice that the merchant stopped seeking pearls when he found the pearl of great price. Eternal life, the incorruptible inheritance, and the love of God through Christ constitute the pearl which, once found, makes further searching unnecessary. Christ fulfills our greatest needs, satisfies our longings, makes us whole and clean before God, calms and quiets our hearts, and gives us hope for the future. The “great price,” of course, is that which was paid by Christ for our redemption. He emptied Himself of His glory, came to earth in the form of a lowly man and shed His precious blood on the cross to pay the penalty for our sins.”

www.GQ.Org

This is the greatest of news for a broken, undone,
wandering and weary soul. – Jesus seeks out the sinner!

1 Corinthians 6:9-11

Do you not know that the unrighteous will not inherit the kingdom of God? Do not be deceived. Neither fornicators, nor idolaters, nor adulterers, nor homosexuals, nor sodomites, **10** nor thieves, nor covetous, nor drunkards, nor revilers, nor extortioners will inherit the kingdom of God. **11** And such were some of you. But you were washed, but you were sanctified, but you were justified in the name of the Lord Jesus and by the Spirit of our God.

What Do You Have To Say?
REGARDING YOUR FAITH

1c.) What Do You Know For Sure?

vs. 30c

...even the righteousness of faith;

How Confident, Assured, At Peace

Are you when it comes to leaving this world and Seeing God?

How is it that the man – Saul the Pharisee had achieved all that outward morality required and yet be a tormented soul – lost on the sea of endless failure?

Philippians 3:4-9

though I also might have confidence in the flesh. If anyone else thinks he may have confidence in the flesh, I more so: **5** circumcised the eighth day, of the stock of Israel, of the tribe of Benjamin, a Hebrew of the Hebrews; concerning the law, a Pharisee; **6** concerning zeal, persecuting the church; concerning the righteousness which is in the law, blameless. **7** But what things were gain to me, these I have counted loss for Christ. **8** Yet indeed I also count all things loss for the excellence of the knowledge of Christ Jesus my Lord, for whom I have suffered the loss of all things, and count them as rubbish, that I may gain Christ **9** and be found in Him, not having my own righteousness, which is from the law, but that which is through faith in Christ, the righteousness which is from God by faith;

It wasn't until he became a new man – the man Paul,
That is what happens after you meet Jesus Christ !

Can you know anything for sure?

A lot of people have a hard time with absolutes, I get it.

Absolutes are stubborn things / immovable things - especially if they go against what we feel and what we're imagining - what we want versus the Truth. Truth is Absolute.

John 18:37-38

Pilate therefore said to Him, "Are You a king then?" Jesus answered, "You say *rightly* that I am a king. For this cause I was born, and for this cause I have come into the world, that I should bear witness to the truth. Everyone who is of the truth hears My voice." **38** Pilate said to Him, "What is truth?"

John 14:5-6

Thomas said to Him, "Lord, we do not know where You are going, and how can we know the way?" **6** Jesus said to him, "I am the way, the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through Me.

What Do You Have To Say?

2.) About The Gospel?

vs. 31-32

2a.) Can You Recognize It?

vs. 31

**31 but Israel, pursuing THE LAW of righteousness,
has not attained to THE LAW of righteousness.**

The Good News About The Gospel is That – It's Not The Law

Israel tripped over Grace. They stumbled over their Messiah because they could not fathom receiving God's favor apart from their own works of morality.

Works grk: er'gon
to do deeds, work, tasks, efforts, actions as relating acceptance, worthiness, self-centered value system.

John 1:11-12

He came to His own, and His own did not receive Him. **12** But as many as received Him, to them He gave the right to become children of God, to those who believe in His name:

What Do You Have To Say? **ABOUT THE GOSPEL**

2b.) Will You Respond to It?

vs. 32a

**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.**

Isaiah 28:16

Therefore thus says the Lord GOD: "Behold, I lay in Zion a stone for a foundation, a tried (tested, proven, validated) stone, a precious cornerstone, a sure foundation; whoever believes will not act hastily. (be in a panic)

Isaiah 8:14

He (person pronoun) will be as a sanctuary, but a stone of stumbling and a rock of offense to both the houses of Israel, as a trap and a snare to the inhabitants of Jerusalem.

A warrant was for the arrest of the disciples on suspicion of teaching dangerous ideas – i.e.. Jesus was raised from the dead & for healing a man who had been crippled his entire life on the sabbath day.

Acts 4:1-13

Now as they spoke to the people, the priests, the captain of the temple, and the Sadducees came upon them, **2** being greatly disturbed that they taught the people and preached in Jesus the resurrection from the dead. **3**

And they laid hands on them, and put *them* in custody until the next day, for it was already evening. **4**

However, many of those who heard the word believed; and the number of the men came to be about five thousand. **5** And it came to pass, on the next day, that their rulers, elders, and scribes, **6** as well as Annas the

high priest, Caiaphas, John, and Alexander, and as many as were of the family of the high priest, were gathered together at Jerusalem. **7** And when they had set them in the midst, they asked, “By what power or by

what name have you done this?” **8** Then Peter, filled with the Holy Spirit, said to them, “Rulers of the people and elders of Israel: **9** If we this day are judged for a good deed *done* to a helpless man, by what means he has

been made well, **10** let it be known to you all, and to all the people of Israel, that by the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth, whom you crucified, whom God raised from the dead, by Him this man stands here before you

whole. **11** This is the “*stone which was rejected by you builders, which has become the chief cornerstone.*” **12**

Nor is there salvation in any other, for there is no other name under heaven given among men by which we must be saved.” **13** Now when they saw the boldness of Peter and John, and perceived that they were

uneducated and untrained men,

they marveled. And they realized that they had been with Jesus.

They could have been Humbled, instead they chose to be Stumbled.

Which one is it for you?

What Do You Have To Say?
ABOUT THE GOSPEL

2c.) Will You Receive It?

vs. 32c

For they stumbled at that Stumbling Stone.

Matthew 21:23-44

Now when He came into the temple, the chief priests and the elders of the people confronted Him as He was teaching, and said, “By what authority are You doing these things? And who gave You this authority?” **24** But

Jesus answered and said to them, “I also will ask you one thing, which if you tell Me, I likewise will tell you by what authority I do these things: **25** The baptism of John—where was it from? From heaven or from men?”

And they reasoned among themselves, saying, “If we say, ‘From heaven,’ He will say to us, ‘Why then did you not believe him?’ **26** But if we say, ‘From men,’ we fear the multitude, for all count John as a prophet.” **27** So

they answered Jesus and said, “We do not know.” And He said to them, “Neither will I tell you by what authority I do these things. **28** “But what do you think? A man had two sons, and he came to the first and said,

‘Son, go, work today in my vineyard.’ **29** He answered and said, “I will not,’ but afterward he regretted it and went. **30** Then he came to the second and said likewise. And he answered and said, “I go, sir,’ but he did not

go. **31** Which of the two did the will of *his* father?" They said to Him, "The first." Jesus said to them, "Assuredly, I say to you that tax collectors and harlots enter the kingdom of God before you. **32** For John came to you in the way of righteousness, and you did not believe him; but tax collectors and harlots believed him; and when you saw *it*, you did not afterward relent and believe him. **33** "Hear another parable: There was a certain landowner who planted a vineyard and set a hedge around it, dug a winepress in it and built a tower. And he leased it to vinedressers and went into a far country. **34** Now when vintage-time drew near, he sent his servants to the vinedressers, that they might receive its fruit. **35** And the vinedressers took his servants, beat one, killed one, and stoned another. **36** Again he sent other servants, more than the first, and they did likewise to them. **37** Then last of all he sent his son to them, saying, "They will respect my son.' **38** But when the vinedressers saw the son, they said among themselves, "This is the heir. Come, let us kill him and seize his inheritance.' **39** So they took him and cast *him* out of the vineyard and killed *him*. **40** "Therefore, when the owner of the vineyard comes, what will he do to those vinedressers?" **41** They said to Him, "He will destroy those wicked men miserably, and lease *his* vineyard to other vinedressers who will render to him the fruits in their seasons." **42** Jesus said to them, "Have you never read in the Scriptures: '*The stone which the builders rejected Has become the chief cornerstone. This was the LORD'S doing, And it is marvelous in our eyes*'?" **43** "Therefore I say to you, the kingdom of God will be taken from you and given to a nation bearing the fruits of it. **44** *And whoever falls on this stone will be broken; but on whomever it falls, it will grind him to powder.*"

What Do You Have To Say?

3.) About You & Yourself?

vs. 33

3a.) Is The Truth Tripping You Up?

vs. 33a

33a As it is written: "Behold, I lay in Zion a Stumbling Stone

This is what's known as preemptive - eschatological doctrine.
That is - that the future of God's salvation to the nations will come out of Zion.

Notice This Future Promise of God

"As it is written: "Behold, I lay in Zion a Stumbling Stone & Rock of Offense

Zion

heb: tsayon

barren as in dry, parched or drought ridden - a signpost or monument, marker, the spot or the location, the place of God (2-Samuel 5:7)

Webster's Dictionary Defines the Word, Zion

as being the capital of the Jewish Homeland. Zion can refer to one of three places: the hill where the most ancient areas of Jerusalem stood; the city of Jerusalem itself; or the earthly dwelling place of the Hebrew God.

1 Peter 2:6-8

Therefore, it is also contained in the Scripture,
“Behold, I lay in Zion A chief cornerstone, elect, precious, And he who believes on Him will by no means be put to shame.” **7** Therefore, to you who believe, *He is precious*; but to those who are disobedient, “The stone which the builders rejected Has become the chief cornerstone,” **8** and “A stone of stumbling And a rock of offense.” They stumble, being disobedient to the word, to which they also were appointed.

The Confrontation at Caesarea Philippi,

Matthew 16:13-18

When Jesus came into the region of Caesarea Philippi, He asked His disciples, saying, “Who do men say that I, the Son of Man, am?” **14** So they said, “Some say John the Baptist, some Elijah, and others Jeremiah or one of the prophets.” **15** He said to them, “But who do you say that I am?” **16** Simon Peter answered and said, “You are the Christ, the Son of the living God.” **17** Jesus answered and said to him, “Blessed are you, Simon Bar-Jonah, for flesh and blood has not revealed *this* to you, but My Father who is in heaven. **18** And I also say to you that you are Peter, and on this rock I will build My church, and the gates of Hades shall not prevail against it.

What Do You Have To Say?
ABOUT YOU & YOURSELF

3b.) Is The Truth Hurting You?

vs. 33b

33b Stumbling Stone and Rock of offense,

Rock grk: *petra*
a large mass of rock (massive) a rock that cannot be moved.

<https://i.pining.com/originals/9b/f9/bc/9bf9bc0a0e9186e723a41c8f05067cea.jpg>
<https://www.thetimethespace.com/wp-content/uploads/2017/10/Yosemite-Half-Dome.jpg>
<https://wallpapercave.com/wp/wp4525770.jpg>

Offense grk: *skan'da'lon*
a trip hazard, a hindrance, that which causes a fall or a crash leading to injury, death, or destruction.

Israel tripped / fell at the Rock. They were scandalized by the thought of the Messiah being a suffering Servant.

What Do You Have To Say?
ABOUT YOU & YOURSELF

3c.) Is The Truth Calling You?

vs. 33c

Romans 9:33c

and whoever believes on Him will not be put to shame.”

The Truth Should Offend You & Call You

It has been my discovery in life that the truth is more often than not - rough. It hasn't been tidy, neat or easy. The truth is sometimes cutting, and it leaves scars. The truth in my experience has cut me deeply. Yet with every incision another cancer was removed. First this and then that, then next - was the other thing and He just keeps going on...”

Matthew 16:15a

He said to them (you, he, she, we) “But who do YOU SAY that I am?”

What Do You Have To Say?

End of Study

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