

ROMANS: God's Saving Promises

"Righteousness is Found Only in Christ"

Romans 10:1-4

April 28, 2024

Introduction

British/Canadian commentator John Phillips describes the hopelessness of misguided religious zeal:

"Nothing can be worse than misguided religious exercise. A certain town in Canada has four roads leading from it. One goes north until it joins the Alaska Highway. One runs south toward the American border. One leads east to the foothills of the Rockies where it comes to an abrupt end. The other goes west to the Pacific coast. Suppose a motorist wants to drive south to the American border but instead of obtaining specific directions, he decides to take the road which most appeals to him. The road north looks the best, so he blithely starts off along this road at top speed. This would be a case of misguided zeal. The faster and the farther he drives along that road, the farther and farther he gets away from his desired destination. Just so, many people plunge into zealous religious activity, careless of the fact that their zeal is misguided and is actually hurrying them along a totally false path. 'There is a way which seemeth right unto a man, but the end thereof are the ways of death'" (Prov. 14:12).

The ministry and message of the apostle Paul was offered first to the Jews. Paul found repeatedly that the Jews were resistant and hard-hearted to the Gospel message he was charged to proclaim to them. Instead of receiving the righteousness found in Jesus Christ, with few exceptions, the Jews defaulted to their traditions and held tenaciously to a works-based righteousness which is never good enough by God's standards.

"Righteousness" is an important word in the book of Romans occurring some thirty-five times. Paul began this monumental letter by declaring that the gospel is the power of God for salvation and that in this gospel message "the righteousness of God is revealed from faith for faith" (Romans 1:17).

Followers of Jesus Christ We have the greatest message that this world could ever know and desperately needs to hear.

~ Romans 10:1-4

I. Every Christian's B_____. (10:1)

"my heart's desire and prayer to God for them is that they may be saved."

II. Every Christian's C_____. (10:2)

"For I bear them witness..."

III. Every Christian's C_____. (10:3-4)

"they did not submit to God's righteousness."

-Zeal for God without knowledge

-Ignorant of the Righteousness of God

-Prideful assertions- "seeking to establish their own" righteousness

-Rebellious-not submitting to God's standards

IV. Every Christian's H_____. (10:4b)

"For Christ is the end of the law for righteousness to everyone who believes."

Conclusion

Are you righteous before God?

In answering that question, you may be spring-loaded to list things you have done or need to do.

Stop! Fight the urge to earn God's favor by your works. Allow your mind, your thinking to be transformed by the free offer of the gospel.

Take in the message of Good News that God's righteousness is available to you by faith in the Righteous One, Jesus Christ. He is the only one qualified to make sinners righteous before God. Trust Him now as the hope of your life and live in Him as a recipient of free grace.