



# Saved by the Righteousness of God in Christ

ROMANS 10: 1 – 4

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SERIES: ROMANS: THE ROAD TO RIGHTEOUSNESS

# Romans 10: 1 - 4

<sup>1</sup> Brethren, my heart's desire and my prayer to God for them is for *their* salvation. <sup>2</sup> For I testify about them that they have a zeal for God, but not in accord with knowledge. <sup>3</sup> For not knowing about God's righteousness and seeking to establish their own, they did not subject themselves to the righteousness of God. <sup>4</sup> For Christ is the end of the law for righteousness to everyone who believes.

# Heart's Desire V. 1.

- ▶ Speaking to brethren Paul's hearts desire and prayer.
  - ▶ Paul prayed for the salvation of the Jews.
  - ▶ Notice Paul's Heart toward His people (cf. 9: 1 – 5).
- ▶ These are the same Jews identified in chapter nine.
  - ▶ Paul's love for his people included all Jews.
  - ▶ Nothing indicates his prayer for only elect Jews.
  - ▶ The tie between the theology of election and the heart's desire for people's salvation.

# Seeking Salvation the Wrong Way. Vv. 2 – 3a

- ▶ A zeal not in accordance with knowledge.
  - ▶ Paul knew all about this as Saul of Tarsus.
  - ▶ The knowledge is ἐπιγνωσιν referring to a complete, full or accurate knowledge.
- ▶ God's righteousness verses one's own righteousness.
  - ▶ God's righteousness is holy and prefect.
  - ▶ Man's attempts at righteousness is never perfect.
  - ▶ Human attempts to be right with God mean lowering God's standards, and elevating human actions.
  - ▶ Good enough or better than verses perfect.

# Subject to Christ. Vv. 3b - 4

- ▶ They did not subject themselves to the righteousness of God by lowering the standard.
  - ▶ God demanded perfection, people settle for good enough.
- ▶ Christ is the end of the law – How?
  - ▶ Much is written concerning the meaning of end.
  - ▶ End as in termination (cf. Gal 3: 24 – 25, Col 2: 17).
  - ▶ End as in fulfillment (cf. 2 Cor 5: 21, 1 Pet 1: 18 – 19).
  - ▶ End as a hybrid of above (cf. Eph 2: 15, Col 2: 14).
  - ▶ Christ is our righteousness only for those who believe.

# Conclusion

- ▶ No matter a person's status in election, our hearts desire and prayer must be for their salvation.
- ▶ We must realize God's standard of righteousness reflecting His perfect holiness and absolute perfection required to be right with Him.
- ▶ We must realize that we cannot be either perfect or holy and lowering the standards to human achievability and raising our conduct beyond reality does not make us acceptable with God.
- ▶ Right with God comes with believing in Christ who then becomes our righteousness.