

There Is No Distinction

Lesson 8
December 1
Romans 10

Romans 10 begins with Paul continuing to emphasize how much he cares for his fellow Jews.

Brothers, my heart's desire and prayer to God for them is that they may be saved. For I bear them witness that they have a zeal for God, but not according to knowledge. (10:1-2)

How could the zeal of so many not be “according to knowledge”?

For, being ignorant of the righteousness of God, and seeking to establish their own, they did not submit to God's righteousness. (10:3)

Many physical descendants of Abraham had stumbled, were stumbling, and continue to stumble over the cornerstone (9:32-33) of God's entire plan for mankind's redemption—Jesus Christ.

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

For Moses writes about the righteousness that is based on the law, that the person who does the commandments shall live by them. But the righteousness based on faith says, “Do not say in your heart, ‘Who will ascend into heaven?’” (that is, to bring Christ down) “or ‘Who will descend into the abyss?’” (that is, to bring Christ up from the dead). But what does it say? “The word is near you, in your mouth and in your heart” (that is, the word of faith that we proclaim); because, if you confess with your mouth that Jesus is Lord and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved. For with the heart one believes and is justified, and with the mouth one confesses and is saved. For the Scripture says, “Everyone who believes in him will not be put to shame.” For there is no distinction between Jew and Greek; for the same Lord is Lord of all, bestowing his riches on all who call on him. For “everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved.”

(10:4-13)

Everyone. Jew and Gentile. Male and female. Rich and poor. Free and slave. The gospel calls everyone to be reconciled to God on the same basis—the obedience of faith in Christ (1:5; 16:26). That's news that everyone needs to hear!

How then will they call on him in whom they have not believed? And how are they to believe in him of whom they have never heard? And how are they to hear without someone preaching? And how are they to preach unless they are sent? As it is written, “How beautiful are the feet of those who preach the good news!” (10:14-15)

This is why Paul wouldn't stop sharing the good news about Jesus, regardless of the obstacles, hardships, or persecutions. “Faith comes from hearing, and hearing through the word of Christ” (10:17). Not all who heard obeyed the gospel (10:16). But just as God had promised in **Psalm 19:4**, **Deuteronomy 32:21**, and **Isaiah 65:1**, the good news had spread far beyond Israel and the God of Abraham had been found by Gentiles. Meanwhile, so many Israelites insisted on living as “a disobedient and contrary people” (10:21). So what do we need to see and understand? Let's talk about it...

