

Romans 10:18~21, part 1

The “*righteousness*” that God “*requires*” of men, is both accessible and very easy to attain. It is acquired by faith...by simply believing in the person and work of Jesus Christ. Now mind you, faith is not mere “*head knowledge*,” but rather the faith the scripture speaks of is manifested by “*repentance!*” To “BELIEVE” in Christ, requires a man to humble himself before God. It requires a man to turn from his transgressions against God, by removing SELF from the throne of his heart, thus making way for the King of Kings, and the Lord of Lords... Then and only then, is a man made “*right with God.*” “*Righteous*” is attained when both God and man has been restored to their rightful place.

Here in this chapter...Paul is explaining why the majority of the nation Israel did not attain righteousness, and were yet in their sin, under the wrath of God. (9:30~32) They had *sought righteousness* by the works of the Law. Which simply means, they sought to be “*right with God*” by merely conforming to God’s Law. Which did manifest a certain righteousness, there was a certain godliness, but it was superficial, it was outward only. It was little more than morality. Paul declares, that kind of righteousness ***is not enough to save a man!*** Obedience to the Law is not obedience at all! Reason being, that is outwardly, and superficial obedience, and does not involve the heart of the man! The righteousness that saves, is the righteous which is of “*faith.*” Which refers to the obedience, which comes from the heart! It refers to an “*inner allegiance*” to God, rather than just an outward one.

God’s not interested that men simply “*Do Right,*” but that they “*Be Right.*” Something that conforming to the Law could never accomplish. The only thing conforming to the Law can do, is reveal that you are “*Not Right*” with God! Which Paul says was the whole purpose in God giving the Law. The Law was given to manifest that man’s heart was far from God! Then, after fulfilling its task, it would point men to Christ, to restore men to a “right standing” with God.



The Law entered the world, to manifest the “*rebellious hearts of men!*”
Christ came into the world, to turn the “*rebellious hearts of men*” back to God!

Here in verses 9~13, Paul declares that anyone who will repent and receive Christ as Lord and Savior, will escape the wrath of God...they will be saved. In verse 13, he quotes the words of the prophet Joel...
¹³For whosoever shall call upon the name of the Lord shall be saved. Declaring that Joel was speaking of Christ... Paul declares *His name is Jesus.*

All who “*call upon the name of the Lord*” will be saved! It is that simple. But there remains a problem... Read (Vs 14~17) How shall they call on Him, unless they Hear about Him! That helps you understand why Paul went all over the known world at that time, preaching Christ! Paul knew, there were millions of Jews all over the world that “*thought*” their righteousness in the Law would save them, when it wouldn’t! Paul himself, had been “***Blind***” to this same thing, until the day he met Christ on the road to Damascus. The nation Israel needed to realize what they had done in “*rejecting Christ.*” They needed to hear the truth, and fall prostrate before God in repentance, and yield themselves to Christ Jesus...

In verses 18~21, Paul reveals why Israel had not attained righteousness with God... He does so by answering a couple of questions. He ask...

¹⁸...Is it because they have not heard?

¹⁹...Is it because Israel did not know?

Oh they had heard...and they knew! Knowledge was not the problem! God himself had told them, Both through His creation...and in His written word!

If anybody should have been saved, it should have been Israel! They had not only the testimony found in creation, but they also had the written testimony in that of the word of God! Something the Gentiles didn't have! But even with all that knowledge...they still rejected Christ.

This morning I want to look only at verse 18, where Paul ask the question... "**Have they not Heard?**" Did Israel's problem **stem** from a lack of "*hearing?*" If "*faith comes by hearing, and hearing by the word of God*"...then does that mean that Israel had not heard?

"**Have they not Heard?**" To answer that question, Paul quotes Psalm 19...*Have they not heard? **Yes verily, their sound went into all the earth, and their words unto the ends of the world.***

Yes they have heard! Turn there with me...Psalms 19 is a Psalm written by King David...In order to get the full meaning and understand what Paul is saying, let us read both before and after what Paul quoted. This will help us understand the context. Paul only quotes one statement, because the Jews were very familiar with the context, having been raised in it.

Read Psalms 19:1~6...Paul quoted verse 4, declaring that Israel had heard, just like every other person on earth *had heard*...through what is known of God through His creation. Listen closely...

¹ ***The heavens declare the glory of God; and the firmament shows his handiwork.***

Heaven's refer to the celestial body, the stars, moon and such... Firmament is a reference to the sky, the sun and clouds, etc... It almost seems that "*heavens*" is that which is seen at night, while the *firmament* is what we see during the day. The scripture refers to "*three heavens.*" The first, is a reference to the sky, the clouds, etc... The "*Second*" is outside the earth's atmosphere, the stars and moons... Then the "*third*" is that beyond the galaxy...**what we cannot see!** The "*third heaven*" is a reference to the place where God dwells. A place beyond our view, a place that lies beyond the "*second heaven.*"

¹ ***The heavens declare the glory of God; and the firmament shows his handiwork.***

God's glory and God's wisdom is clear seen and proclaimed in His creation... The "*heavens*" give dramatic evidence of his existence, his power. The "*firmament*" is full of the incredible displays of God's skillful craftsmanship. To say that the universe happened by chance is absurd! It's design, intricacy, and orderliness give proof of a personally involved creator!

There's a debate-taking place right now, concerning Intelligent Design. Advocates of ID argue that Creation reveals intelligent design... It didn't just happen...there is order, and that it should be taught in our schools in the area Science. Opponents of ID disagree, and argue that this is nothing more than a ploy to interject "*Religion*" into the schools. Which has the debated deadlocked right now. ID supporters are lobbying that it should be taught in our schools, along side evolution, simply showing the preciseness and incredible make up of our world. ID opponents argue it all about religion, just another ploy to get God in the schools, and argue that it is a violation of Separation of Church and State.

But its not, scientist who have studied the earth and the heavens simply want to teach what they have found, factual things about the make up and workings of our planet and solar system. The role of the distance of the sun and moon play on life, the work accomplished by the seasonal changes, the alignment of the stars, etc... How all these things work together to sustain life here on earth. There not random, they're very orderly, and very precise in the way they work.

The reason opponents oppose it so much, because to acknowledge "*intelligence*" in the make up of the world, is too acknowledge God. To acknowledge there is a God, is to declare that we are His creation, and if we are his creation, we should live unto him and his ways. That's why they so adamantly oppose it! To

acknowledge there is a “Creator” brings all kinds of ramifications...responsibility, accountability, right and wrong, etc... It’s easier to say there is no God, and live however you want, to your own standards.

² *Day unto day utters speech, and night unto night shows knowledge.*

The emphasis here, is that it is constant, never ceasing. Every single day, and every night, the heavens declare there is a God, a creator, manifested by all that is seen! No matter what time of day or night, there’s never a time that the message is not going out loud and clear! It is a message that has never ceased since God first created it! From Adam and Eve until the last person on earth is born, the heavens will never cease to proclaim to all men, the knowledge and existence of God!

³ *There is **no speech nor language**, where their voice is not heard.*

⁴ *Their line is gone out through all the earth, and their words to the end of the world.*

There’s no “*language*,” there’s no “*dialect*” that God has not spoken in... Every single nation, all peoples of the earth, regardless of the language, have heard and understood what the “*heavens*” declare about God! There are no language barriers, there are no miscommunications...God has made it clear to all men, to all who dwell on the earth, regardless of race, color or creed!

To illustrate his point, that every single person on earth “*Hears*” and “*Knows*”...he points to the sun!

⁴ *Their **line** (the testimony of Creation)...is gone out through all the earth, and their words to the end of the world. In them hath he set a tabernacle for the sun,* ⁵ *Which is as a bridegroom coming out of his chamber, and rejoices as a strong man to run a race.* ⁶ *His going forth is from the end of the heaven, and his circuit unto the ends of it: and there is nothing hid from the heat thereof.*

He “*personifies*” the sun... He declares that the heavens are the “*dwelling place*” for the sun! He attempts to describe the “*beauty*” of God’s creation using “*earthly words*.” “*Bridegroom coming out of his chamber*,” and “*as a strong man to run a race...*” are earthly metaphors to describe the glory and splendor of God’s creation, the sun.

(Need Cute saying) ...*You’re pertier than a...*

The “*point*” of using the sun as his illustration...is that “*every place*” its light shines, every place that its heat is felt...knows or hears the message! There is a God! Nothing is hid from its heat! Wherever the sun shines, there is “*Light!*” The *light of the knowledge* that there is a God!⁶ *His going forth is from the end of the heaven, and his circuit unto the ends of it: and there is nothing hid from the heat thereof.*

It rises in the east and sets in the west. It covers the entire world, from beginning to end. There is “*no where*” it doesn’t shine! Therefore, there is “*no one*” who doesn’t hear or know of God!

The answer to verse 18 in Romans...“**Have they not Heard?**” Is a resounding...**YES...they have heard!** ALL “*Have Heard*”...But in spite of this universal message that sounds out day and night throughout the entire world, most people “*ignore it*,” and reject God because they want to live as they please.

It is for that “*reason*” that God will be forced to send judgment on them...

(Romans 1:18) ¹⁸ *For the wrath of God is revealed from heaven against all ungodliness and unrighteousness of men... who hold the truth in unrighteousness;*