

I. Introduction and review.

II. Do you share Paul's burden for the lost? v. 1

- A. Paul prayerfully yearns for Israel's salvation. 9:1f**
1. He once was what they still are. Phil. 3:6f Ga. 1:13-14 Acts 22:3 21:20
 2. His belief in election does not stop him from caring, praying, and working for the conversion of those who are lost. II Ti. 2:10 I Co. 9:16-27
 3. His care for the lost reflects God's concern for the lost. Ezek. 18:23,32 33:11 I Ti. 2:3-4 II Pe. 3:9 Luke 23:34 Acts 7:60
 4. Even when people are hard, he does not write them off or give up on them.
- B. Why pray if God has already chosen who will be saved? 9:15-16 Eph. 1:4f Jo. 6:44**
1. God tells you to pray for the lost. Eph. 6:19
 2. God answers your prayers. Mt. 7:7-11 James 5:16
 3. God uses your prayers as a means to the salvation of the lost. 10:14-15
 4. Don't use your limited knowledge of God's secret will as an excuse to disobey His revealed will. Deut. 29:29
 5. Pray because God alone can change the hearts of the lost. 8:7-8 3:10f Jo. 6:37,44 Acts 16:14 Ezek. 11:19 II Ti. 2:25-26 Election encourages prayer.
- C. Application: Don't behave like a hypercalvinist.**
1. Do you care deeply about the lost? .
 2. Do you regularly pray for the lost?
 3. Do you actively seek the salvation of the lost? 10:14f II Ti. 2:10
 4. Are you expectant God will save the lost? Isa. 55:11 Acts 18:9-11

III. Religious zeal and sincerity is not enough. v. 2

- A. Paul acknowledges the sincere religious zeal of the Jews. v. 2a 9:31 Acts 22:3-4**
1. They are passionate for the law, the temple, and their traditions. Mt. 23:15 Paul used to be exactly as they are. Acts 22:3-5 26:4-5 Phil. 3:5-6 Gal. 1:13-14
 2. They were willing to pay a high price for their beliefs.
- B. The zeal of the Jews is not according to the truth. v. 2b Pr. 19:2 I Co. 8:1**
1. The Jews lack true knowledge of God. I Ti. 1:13 I Co. 8:1f II Ti. 3:7 II Co. 3:15
 2. Zeal for truth is good and noble. John 2:17 Ps. 69:9 Num. 25:6-13 I Ki. 19:10,15
 3. Misguided zeal can become dangerous fanaticism. I Kings 18:26-29 Ga. 4:17-18
- C. Many who are sincere in their beliefs are sincerely wrong.**
1. Some claim it doesn't matter what you believe, so long as you are sincere.
 2. Paul shows that sincerity is not enough. Acts 22:3-5
 3. False religious zeal is a great barrier to salvation.
- D. Application.**
1. Even the zealous must be saved. Sincerity is no substitute for conversion.
 2. There is one way to be right with God. Acts 4:12 Jo. 14:6 I Ti. 2:5
 3. We need to evangelize those who have (sincerely) believed a lie.

IV. Men reject God's righteousness and arrogantly seek to establish their own. v. 3

- A. The self-righteous Jews reject the righteousness God supplies.**
1. They are willfully ignorant on the subject of righteousness. 9:31-33 8:7-8 Jn. 2:10 Mt. 5:20,48
 2. They are determined to establish their own righteousness. Mt. 19:16-22 Mk. 7:13 Lu. 18:9-12 16:15
 3. They refuse to submit to God's way of righteousness through faith in Christ.
- B. The error of the Jews is repeated by almost all religious people.**
1. People still think God is less holy than He is and they are more holy than they are.
 2. People still think they can establish their own righteousness. Isa. 64:6
 3. Being satisfied with their own righteousness, they refuse to submit to God's righteousness provided through Christ.
- C. Jesus came to call, not the self-righteous, but sinners. Mt. 9:11-12 Luke 18:13-14**

V. You can only be saved through faith in Christ. v. 4

- A. In what sense is Christ the *end* of the law? v. 4a**
1. The Law points to Jesus as its true meaning and purpose. 3:21 Ga. 3:24 Mt. 5:17 Jo. 5:46-47
 2. Christ alone possesses the righteousness the law demands. Mt. 22:37-39 I Pe. 1:19
 3. Christ has satisfied the righteous demands of the law for our sin. 3:26,31 Gal. 3:13 II Co. 5:21 I Pe. 3:18 Isa. 53:4f
 4. Those who come to Christ are finished with the law's method of making themselves righteous. 8:3-4 Eph. 2:15 II Co. 3:6f Gal. 3:23
 5. Paul is *not* saying:
 - a. There has been a shift in the way of salvation from law to faith. Faith has always been the only way we could be righteous before God. 4:1-8 Ga. 3:6-9
 - b. The law has no value for the believer. 13:8-10
 - c. That God's standard of righteousness has changed.
- B. The righteousness supplied by Christ comes exclusively to those who believe. v. 4b Phil. 3:8-9**

VI. Concluding applications: God's righteousness and man's are fundamentally opposed to each other.

Discussion Questions for Family Worship

1. Why pray if God has already chosen who shall be saved?
2. How do you show your concern for the lost?
3. How did the Jews show themselves to be zealous in religion?
4. Why is sincerity not enough? Can you give examples of people who are sincerely wrong?
5. What is the fundamental religious error made by the Jews?
6. How is the same error made by other religions?
7. In what sense is Christ the *end* of the law?
8. True or false:
 - a. While before people were saved by keeping the law, now we are saved by faith.
 - b. As Christians we don't need to be concerned about obeying God's law.
 - c. Christ shows the unchanging righteousness of the law by His perfect obedience and by paying for our sin.