

Rom 10:14-21 Why Israel Failed

Transition to Romans 10:14-21

Moses taught both a righteousness based on the law and a righteousness based on faith. That is what Paul told us in verses 5-8. By quoting Moses in v 8, Paul is reminding us of the “circumcision of the heart” that God had promised his people in Deuteronomy 30:6. The purpose of doing this was to enable his people to “love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul , that you may live.” This is the Old Testament equivalent of being regenerated by faith. Like with Christians, it requires a sovereign act of God in our hearts. This is what Moses is saying “is not too hard”. This is the message of salvation that is so easily accessible i.e. “in your mouth and in your heart”. If all it takes is to call on Jesus to be saved, the next questions logically follow. And those are the questions that Paul now asks.

This passage can simply be outlined thus – Verses 14-17 The Process of salvation and Israel’s failure
Verse 18-21 Israel’s failure fully explained

1. The Process of Salvation and Why Israel Failed v. 14-17

V. 14-15a Four Questions and their answers. Please identify the questions and discuss the answers that one would expect. Identify five critical verbs in the process of coming to salvation. Follow the process forwards and backwards.
<ol style="list-style-type: none">1. 14 a- How will they call on him if they have not believed in Him?2. 14b-How are they to believe in someone about whom they have never heard?3. 14c- How are they to hear without a preacher?4. 15a-How will they preach unless they are sent?
Verse 15b. This is a quote from Isaiah 52:7. Is the context of this verse good news or bad news for Israel? Who are the ‘sent ones’ in Romans 10?
<i>In Isaiah, it is great news. In Romans not so much, because Israel rejected the messengers and ultimately rejected the messenger from heaven, the Lord Jesus Christ himself.</i>
Verse 16. Paul is seeking to establish that Israel had every opportunity to hear the message. What, according to verse 16 was the real problem? See as well Hebrews 4:2. Why does Paul quote from Isai 53:1 at this point?
<i>Disobedience was the real problem. Isai 53 is a Messianic passage, and predicts this disobedience. At the same time, by virtue of inspiration, Paul makes very clear that Israel had no lack of information from their own Scriptures regarding the identity of the Son of God and Messiah.</i>
V. 17 We have a summary statement here of the process of salvation. See Hebrews 4:12, 2 Tim 3:14-17. What relationship does verse 17 have with verse 18?
<i>The link is the word HEARING the word of God. Paul is setting his readers up with the next section</i>

2. Israel's Failure Fully Explained v. 18-21

In verse 18, why do you think Paul quotes Psalm 19:4? What is the first half of this Psalm about? What about the second half of the Psalm?

*Paul is using the phenomenon of natural revelation to assert that Israel should have heard and known God far better than they did, by virtue of His creation. This natural revelation is a global revelation. The fact that he cites v. 4 is a reminder that the Jews have been scattered all over the world as a result of covenant unfaithfulness. But even in far off countries the voice is heard. (Deu 28:36)
The second half of the Psalm is about special revelation. Ensure that your students understand the terms 'natural revelation' and "special revelation'. The answer to Paul's question, "Did they not hear?" is a resounding YES.. they did hear, both in creation and in their Scriptures.*

In verse 19 Paul asked if Israel's lack of faith was due to not hearing the message. Next he asks if their problem was with a lack of understanding. Analyze carefully Paul's Old Testament quotations here. Why did he not just prove that they DID understand? What did he do instead?

*Paul did not need to prove that they were capable of understanding the message. It was safely assumed that they understood. After all, remember Romans 9: 4 "to them belong the adoption, the glory, the covenants, the giving of the law, the worship, and the promises.."
Also, do you see the word "foolish nation"? The Israelites regarded themselves as the wise nation, whereas the Gentile nations were all regarded as foolish. And so God was provoking them to jealousy by showing them that even foolish nations can understand the message of redemption. Again, be reminded that Moses said, "This is not that hard that you need to ascend into heaven to find it, etc*

In verse 20 Paul pulls in more proof that it was not a problem of understanding the message. How does Paul's quotation of Isaiah 65:1 help us to understand it was not a problem with understanding?

By quoting Isai 65, Paul is showing that this is not a problem with lack of understanding, but rather a lack of faithfulness. This is nothing but covenantal unfaithfulness and God is judging them for it.

In verse 21 Paul continues to quote Isaiah. It is a sad way to end the chapter. After discussing the interpretation of the verse, how would you apply this passage to our situation today? How often do you think God has to be longsuffering with us? Do you think that the church through the years has been any less rebellious and disobedient than Israel?

By using the words "disobedient and contrary people" God is stating that the problem with Israel at this point was simply disobedience and rebellion. Messengers were sent to them. The word was preached to them They heard in more ways than one. They understood what was being proclaimed. And they rejected it..

To conclude – this is why they failed.

But note the longsuffering patience of God. It's not over. There is hope. But they will have to come to our NEXT Bible study to find out. ☺